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ADAM SANDLER AND DREW BARRYMORE 'CINEMATIC SOULMATES' FOR THE THIRD TIME WITH BLENDED. USE METRO AR FOR EXTRAS PAGE 21

Nigeria shaken by deadly blasts

More than a hundred killed as two car bombs explode at a busy bus terminal and market in the central Nigerian city of Jos PAGE 13

A passerby plays with the interactive lights of Chinook Arc, Calgary's latest piece of public art, on Tuesday evening. The Beltline installation has proven more popular than the widely criticized Travelling Light — also known as The Giant Blue Ring — near Airport Trail. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Chu's plan would let you choose your public art

Put it to a vote. 'If citizens want to pick the blue circle, so be it,' councillor says

ROBSON FLETCHER
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Calgarians should be the final arbiters of what makes good art, according to Coun. Sean Chu, who aims to amend the city's public art policy on Monday with a proposal that would see future decisions put to an online vote.

"We should have some sort of a city website and have the artists there — let's say the top three — and let the citizens pick," Chu said Tuesday. "I think that's the best way."

His comments came after a city committee, by a 6-2 vote, endorsed proposed amendments to the existing policy that, among other things, would add two additional "citizen members" to the juries that select projects.

Currently, the five-person juries are typically composed of three artists, one community member and one city staff member.

Richard White, who has served on past juries as an artist representative, said he sees some merit in the idea of a public vote "in certain circumstances."

"People are talking about art like they never have before," White said. "So, to narrow it down to say, the top three, have an open house and get people's thoughts on it would enhance that discussion."

Mayor Naheed Nenshi said the expanded juries, as proposed, balance the need for increased citizen input and artistic merit.

"Art should be divisive," Nenshi said. "If everyone loved everything then I don't think that would be very useful as public art."

Chu said he didn't raise the idea of an online vote as an amendment at committee because he wasn't sure what kind of support it would receive there.

He told reporters after the meeting he plans to propose a formal amendment at the next full meeting of city council, where 15 members cast votes.

"Monday, I will put something in there," Chu said.

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Priorities.
City needs a north health campus: Councillor

Calgary already has the South Health Campus, but Coun. Jim Stevenson says the city needs to accelerate growth at the opposite end of town to encourage Alberta Health Services to build a north health campus, too.

Calgary has reserved land just within its city limits, at the corner of Centre Street and Stoney Trail, for just such a project, but it's not certain exactly where AHS will choose to build its next major hospital.

Just to the north and rapidly growing, Airdrie has also been clamouring for health services, as its roughly 50,000 people still don't have 24-7 emergency care.

"We want that health campus inside the city boundaries, and there are people outside the city boundaries that would like to see it locate there," Stevenson said Tuesday.

The Keystone Hills development in north-central Calgary will eventually be home to roughly 60,000 people, and a city committee voted Tuesday to fast-track at least part of it, given additional financial commitments from developers for infrastructure. But AHS "has not made any commitments at this time for development of a new health facility at the Keystone Hills location," according to area vice-president and medical director Dr. Francois Belanger. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Members of the Calgary Fire Department work at the scene of the evacuated area on Tuesday afternoon. BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

Falling bricks close streets downtown

Structural concerns.
Building appeared to be 'bowed out,' witness reported

ROBSON FLETCHER
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No one was hurt when bricks tumbled from the side of a downtown Calgary high rise on Tuesday, but structural concerns prompted an evacuation of the area and street closures that are expected to last into Wednesday morning.

The problem with the building at 608 7th St. S.W. was first observed shortly before noon, said fire department spokesperson Carol Henke.

"A gentleman in the building across the street saw some bricks falling from the building and he noticed also that the building seems to be bowed out slightly, so he called 911," Henke said. "When fire crews arrived on scene they immediately evacuated the building, set up a perimeter and also evacuated the neighbouring building."

Members of the Safety Response Unit with Calgary's development and building approvals department investigated the building with the help of a professional engineer, but the exact cause of the damage wasn't immediately clear.

"From the inside, visually, they couldn't see any reason for what had occurred," Henke said.

Police closed 6th Avenue S.W. between 6th and 7th streets and 7th Street S.W. between 5th and 7th avenues Tuesday. The closures were expected to remain in place until at least Wednesday morning.

Evacuation

An estimated 150 people were evacuated, in total.

- The Plus 15 on 7th Street between 6th and 7th avenues S.W. was also closed as a "precautionary measure," according to the city.
- Drivers are being asked to avoid the area until the problem is addressed and road closures are lifted.

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‘Safer’ long weekend on Alberta roads: RCMP

Fewer fatalities were logged this weekend on Alberta roads, but infractions appear to be up.

Alberta’s Integrated Traffic Services reported nearly 350 more charges over this May long weekend compared to last year.

“There has been some 5,703 charges over the weekend,” said Sgt. Josée Valiquette.

“Most of them were speeding offences.”

There were four fatal collisions, with one each in Two Hills, Westlock, Picture Butte and the Vulcan area. In 2013, there were eight fatalities over the long weekend.

“Despite those tragedies, it was a safer weekend on Alberta roads,” said Valiquette.

RCMP said there were also 11 impaired-driving charges and 13 driving suspensions.

During last year’s May long weekend, officers laid a total of 5,357 charges — 58 of which were impaired driving and 3,901 that were speeding violations.

STARS Air Ambulance was also kept busy flying around twice as many missions as on a typical weekend.

“On a normal day, STARS flies about four to five mission from our three bases. This weekend, we were flying an average of eight to nine missions a day,” said spokesperson Cam Heke, adding they flew a total of 35 missions, compared to 26 missions during last year’s May long weekend.

Heke said many calls were in response to incidents involving all-terrain vehicles.

“We always prepare to have a busy weekend with May long weekend; it’s the start of the trauma season,” he said. “It’s when a lot of people are going out for the first time to enjoy recreational activities after the long winter.”

KATIE TURNER/FOR METRO

Province to close private school after financial review

International School of Excellence. Calgary school’s shutdown deemed ‘quite rare’

BRYAN WEISMILLER
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Alberta Education declared Tuesday it’s pulling the plug on a Calgary private school after a third-party probe found financial irregularities that included the top administrator’s use of a $93,000 luxury SUV.

Education Minister Jeff Johnson said questionable “capital assets” and governance issues were behind the decision to close the International School of Excellence, a government-subsidized facility located in the city’s northeast near Whitehorn.

“It’s a little bit beyond poor bookkeeping,” Johnson told reporters, adding the Canada Revenue Agency and police are also investigating.

Johnson said he was armed to take action following a forensic audit done by accounting firm KPMG that looked at transactions recorded over a four-year period starting in September 2009.

The review highlights a school-owned BMW X5 SUV that was purchased by top school administrator and founder Jean Fevry.

Investigators say Fevry’s claim he strictly used the vehicle for school purposes was “inconsistent” with others interviewed.

Other issues were raised around the transfer, mortgage and re-mortgage of two properties titled to the school that were collectively valued at more than $1 million.

A related review concluded board oversight of senior management was “absent or ineffective” in a number of cases and issued 19 recommendations.

“I’m compelled and pleased to be taking action because this is the right thing to do for the students,” Johnson said.

The International School of Excellence, which has 170 registered students, has been operating in a church basement since 2003. BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

The school has been operating in a church basement since 2003 and has 170 registered students from kindergarten to Grade 12.

Duane Plantinga, head of the Association of Independent Schools and Colleges in Alberta, called the investigation and subsequent shutdown order “quite rare.”

“This is the first one of this magnitude that I’m aware of,” said Plantinga, referencing his 14 years of experience.

He also noted the school was investigated for inflating grades on standardized exams.

Fevry could not be reached for comment after the reports were released to media late Tuesday.

CBE budget

School board approves fee increases

Calgary parents will be paying more during the upcoming school year after the school board rubber-stamped their budget Tuesday.

The Calgary Board of Education will be raising the fees associated with busing and noon-hour supervision to close a roughly $6-million shortfall.

During the meeting, board chair Sheila Taylor expressed concerns about the hike, stating, “We haven’t involved parents in that decision, a decision that impacts them greatly.

“A family with two children in elementary school who take the bus and stay for lunch, they’re seeing their fees go up approximately $400,” she said.

Trustee Pamela King said she understands the administration’s rationale, but said, “It still makes me feel sick to my stomach at times.”

Despite concerns, the budget was approved in a 5-2 vote with only Taylor and trustee Trina Hurdman voting against it.

Students in Grades 1-12 will be paying $330 in 2014-15 to ride the bus — up $35 from the previous year. The fee for kindergarten students will jump from $215 to $330.

Noon-hour supervision for a five-day period will also rise from $220 in 2013-14 to $280 next year.

The CBE is also anticipating a $33-million deficit next year and a $61-million deficit in 2016.

KATIE TURNER/FOR METRO

Lenny was rescued this past weekend. COURTESY DEANNA THOMPSON

Animal rescue facing $50K in vet bills

Vet bills have topped $50,000 in just one month for a local animal-rescue group that’s seen an influx of injured pets.

The Alberta Animal Rescue Crew Society (AARCS) currently has over 400 homeless animals in their care and, of those, there are over 50 currently requiring veterinary care.

“Over the weekend, we brought in three additional animals that kind of tipped our number of medical cases over 50 and over 130 since Jan. 1, so it’s become really concerning,” said AARCS executive director Deanna Thompson.

Lenny, a six-month-old dog, was one of the three animals rescued this weekend and was found with a shattered femur, bullets throughout his body and was oozing from an infection on his face.

Thirteen other animals in the last month have required surgery, according to Thompson, including three dogs hit by cars and two cats requiring eye removals.

“We do see quite a lot of animals that come in with illnesses and injury, but the number lately does seem to be quite a bit (higher). The reason for that, we’re really not sure,” said Thompson.

“A lot of these animals are required to go to the specialist, which makes it that much more expensive.”

AARCS is seeking donations through their website, aarcs.ca, or gift-card donations for Costco or pet stores in order to purchase items like dog food, paper towels and bleach.

KATIE TURNER/FOR METRO

Quoted

“The number of cases and the cost to the organization has been substantial.”

Deanna Thompson, AARCS,
on the rescue’s mounting costs

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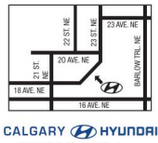

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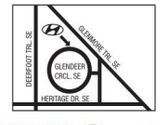

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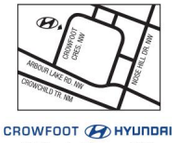

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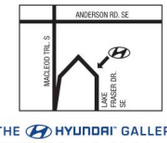

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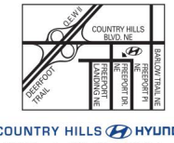

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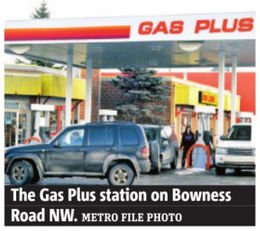
Clean up. Province to take over Bowness Gas Plus remediation effort

The province will be taking over remediation of a site in Bowness where thousands of litres of fuel leaked from a Gas Plus station in 2010, a move welcomed by the mayor.

According to a release from Environmental and Sustainable Resource Development, the government will undertake the remediation while the site owner will still cover the clean-up costs.



The Gas Plus station on Bowness Road NW. METRO FILE PHOTO

"Gas Plus Inc./Handel Transport (Northern) Ltd. have consistently failed to remediate their northwest Calgary gas station site and the surrounding area to the remedial standards set by the province through an Environmental Protection Order," reads the statement.

Work on the site will begin shortly after access has been obtained from Gas Plus/Handel Transport, which the province said could be obtained through the courts, if necessary.

"This has been four years. This is ridiculous. These people deserve the land to be cleaned," said Mayor Naheed Nenshi.

Area councillor Ward Sutherland said the takeover from the province has been a long time coming.

"It's great news," he said. "We had some private meetings in the last few months with the environmental team, and I had some with the minister. It's been on the books for four years. It's long overdue. Bownesians have been waiting a long time."

KATIE TURNER/FOR METRO, WITH FILES FROM ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Crime. Calgary woman who killed her 26-day-old baby sentenced to 5 1/2 years

A Calgary woman who admitted to killing her 26-day-old infant has been sentenced to 5 1/2 years in prison.

Shelby Herchak's son, Daniel, was rushed to hospital in August 2010 from the family home but died soon after surgery.

An autopsy determined he died from blunt force trauma to the head, but how he got the injuries remains a mystery.

Herchak, who was 18 at the time of the baby's death, was originally charged with second-degree murder but pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of manslaughter.

During her sentencing hearing last month, she tearfully apologized to her parents and the community.

Herchak faces three years in prison because she was given credit for time already served. THE CANADIAN PRESS

U of C report co-author Jack Mintz suggests that tolls on roads like Deerfoot Trail, especially for out-of-town commuters, could help underpin more infrastructure dollars and ease the draw on the public purse. METRO FILE

User fees could be key to infrastructure: Report

University of Calgary. New report says property taxes are not enough to fund the future of Alberta cities

DARREN KRAUSE
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More reliance on user fees could limit the increase of — or even reduce — future property taxes, according to the co-author of a report on funding municipal infrastructure.

Jack Mintz, who along with Philip Bazel penned the report for the University of Calgary's School of Public Policy, suggested that citizens are crying out for more and better infrastructure but current funding models aren't sustainable.

Quoted

"There's more connection with what people pay out of their pockets and what they want provided for them."

Jack Mintz, co-author of a new report from the University of Calgary's School of Public Policy, on increasing user fees for better municipal infrastructure

"Certainly we should be relying more on (user fees). There's more connection with what people pay out of their pockets and what they want provided for them," Mintz said, noting that continual property-tax increases and going hat-in-hand to the provincial or federal governments aren't the best solutions.

Less than a quarter of municipal operational revenues in Alberta's five largest cities were extracted from user fees, according to his report.

Mayor Naheed Nenshi reiterated that Calgary has some user fees but sought more detail on the U of C report.

"One of the things about Dr. Mintz's work in this stuff is often that he doesn't get into the details," Nenshi said. "So, having not read it — that's my big disclaimer — I would ask: what user fees?"

Mintz pinpointed toll roads, especially at entry points for out-of-towners, as a strategy to generate more dough from people who don't pay city taxes, something Calgary's transportation boss Mac Logan said could happen in the not-too-distant future.

"Toll has a bad connotation but it's basically a user pay," Logan told reporters earlier this month.

The full report can be found at metronews.ca.

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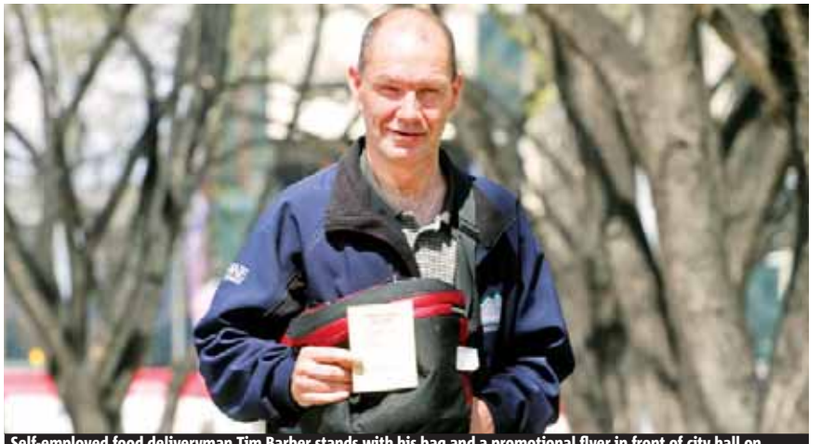

Self-employed food deliveryman Tim Barber stands with his bag and a promotional flyer in front of city hall on Tuesday. BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

Homeless man resumes food delivery service

Timmy's Only. Tim Barber battles back from addiction for second try at business venture

BRYAN WEISMILLER
bryan.weismiller@metronews.ca

Tim Barber is back on downtown Calgary streets — and this time he hopes his food delivery service will keep him off them.

The homeless entrepreneur has hit a few roadblocks since making headlines in 2012 for his Timmy's Only venture, which pitches busy clients on paying him to avoid fast-food lineups.

While he was recognized with a $1,000 micro-grant, Barber admits he quit the business and gave in to his crack addiction amid personal struggles.

But as of last week, he's once again fielding orders for pickup and delivery. And while he talks like a silver-tongued salesman, Barber openly admits he's not delivering coffees for the payday.

"I don't want to go out and use drugs; I don't want to go out and use alcohol because I'm meeting new people," he said Tuesday.

Barber says he still holds the same business permit that lists the Centre of Hope as the official business address.

From roughly 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. — or later — customers can place an order through the Timmy's Only hotline. The service costs $2 for any order under $10 and $5 for orders up to $40. He charges a buck per $10 after that.

Unlike his first foray into small business, Barber will be shouldering the pressure alone this time after a falling out with his partner.

Some of his challenges remain, including front-loading the cash for orders.

Still, he's keen to take on the responsibility.

"This is my livelihood now," said Barber. "I want to make this a successful business."

Ring-ring

587-435-5846

The phone number for Timmy's Only.

Home auction to support cancer outreach

Some cancer patients in Calgary's south end will have to find a new place to gather, as a show home they used is getting auctioned off to raise money for an organization that provides them with support.

Wellspring Calgary had a house in the Auburn Bay community that provided programs for cancer patients and raised the group's profile.

"The chairman of CedarGlen Homes originally came up with this idea, which was very unique; we're not really aware of it happening anywhere else in Canada," said Patti Morris, executive director of Wellspring Calgary.

This show home is being auctioned off to help Wellspring Calgary. KEN VAN DE WALLE/FOR METRO

"They built this show home in south Calgary, which we could decorate in such a way that people could actually learn about Wellspring as they tour through it. And while the show home was open, it was made available to deliver programs."

All proceeds from the auction will go to Wellspring to fund programs and create new community outreach areas.

The house will be auctioned off on June 3 from 5 to 8:30 p.m.

KEN VAN DE WALLE/FOR METRO

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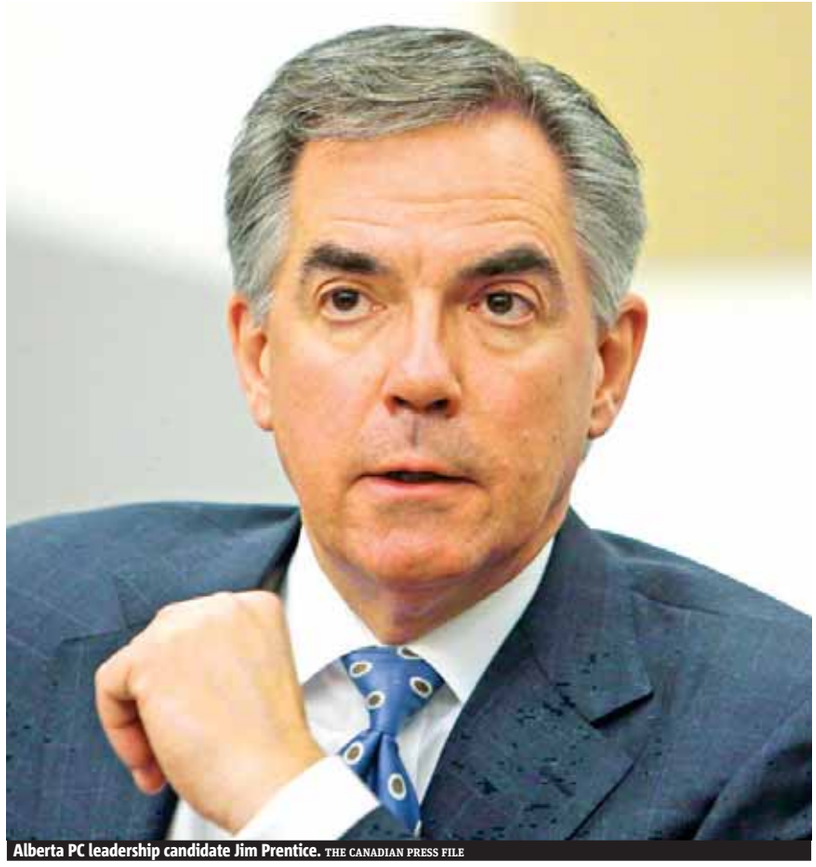
Prentice to kick off run for Alberta PC leadership

Provincial politics.
Front-runner expected to 'begin to align his vision for the campaign' on Wednesday


Alberta PC leadership candidate Jim Prentice. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

The man considered to be the front-runner in the Alberta Progressive Conservative leadership campaign is to formally kick off his campaign Wednesday.

Jim Prentice is scheduled to make a morning speech in Edmonton before heading to Calgary for an afternoon event, his team confirmed Tuesday.

"Jim Prentice will begin to align his vision for the campaign and what he's hoping to talk to Albertans about over the next few months," said Patricia Misutka, one of the former federal cabinet minister's four campaign leaders.

Prentice, 57, is to speak at the renovated historic Alberta Hotel in downtown Edmonton and then head to the Metropolitan Conference Centre in Calgary.

It will be the first time he will outline his policies and priorities for Alberta since he let it be known three weeks ago that he would run to become PC party leader and premier.

Prentice, a one-time Calgary MP, has made the odd public comment on social media but has otherwise restricted his campaign to pictures on Twitter.

With about half the PC caucus supporting him, he is considered the candidate to beat. On May 8, a record 1,800 people turned out for a $500-a-plate party fundraiser in Calgary — something that was attributed in part to burgeoning interest in a Prentice candidacy.

He has filed his nomination papers, which include the requisite 500 signatures.

Prentice is running against former Alberta infrastructure minister Ric McIver, who stepped down from his ministry so he could run. McIver has already signalled he will conduct a grassroots campaign to try to eradicate the excesses under Alison Redford's premiership.

Redford quit March 23 in the face of free-falling support in caucus and within the party over spending scandals and accusations of poor leadership.

McIver has promised to bring in new rules to keep campaign insiders and lobbyists from benefiting through government contracts. His theme is that everyday Albertans "are the boss."

Prentice has not directly addressed Redford's record. But at the Calgary fundraiser he agreed that recent public apologies from Premier Dave Hancock needed to be made.

Hancock will stay on as premier until party members choose a new leader in September, but he is not running.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Calgary pachyderms pack it in

It was the final goodbye to three of the Calgary Zoo's most beloved creatures.

The zoo's remaining three female elephants — Swarna, Kamala and Maharani — are on their way down south to their new home in Washington, D.C.

The trio were successfully loaded into crates Tuesday on the Calgary Zoo grounds and then hoisted on to large, flatbed trucks for transportation south of the border.

The pachyderms will be accompanied by zookeepers from both the Calgary Zoo and the Smithsonian Zoo — their eventual home.

The Calgary Zoo can't divulge travel details for security reasons, but will update Calgary residents once the elephants arrive at their planned destination.

METRO

The Calgary Zoo loads the travel crates of their three departing elephants Tuesday. COURTESY CALGARY ZOO

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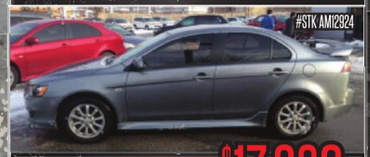

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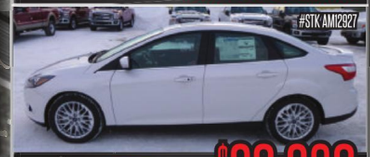

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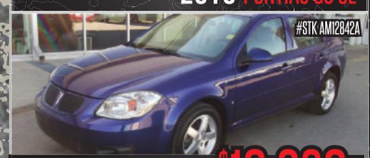

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Dog deception. Bodies of 'stolen' dogs found in ditch

The bodies of six dogs initially reported stolen from the back of a dog walker's truck were found dumped in a ditch in Abbotsford, B.C., says an SPCA spokeswoman.

Lorie Chortyk said the agency retrieved the bodies of the young- to middle-aged dogs and transferred them Tuesday to a lab where necropsies will be done.

The results are expected within a week and will determine how long the dogs were left in a vehicle in Langley, where they are believed to have died in hot weather.

The necropsy results, along with interviews with the dog walker and any witnesses, will be part of the SPCA's report to Crown counsel, which will decide if animal cruelty charges will be laid.

The SPCA took over the investigation on Monday after the dog walker admitted the animals were not stolen. The dog walker initially told police and the dogs' owners that she left her vehicle to use the washroom in a dog park and when she returned the dogs were gone.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ukraine

Canada names top election monitors

Former Ontario premier Mike Harris and Conservative Sen. Raynell Andreychuk will lead the independent Canadian mission to observe the Ukrainian presidential election.

Of the 500 people Canada is sending, 338 will be with the independent election observation mission led by Harris and Andreychuk, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said in a statement.

The remaining 162 will participate in missions run by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prince Charles speaks on major global challenges

Royal tour. First in line to the throne visits P.E.I., the birthplace of Confederation

Prince Charles and his wife Camilla with Katie Kerr, an actress portraying Anne of Green Gables, in Charlottetown on Tuesday. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prince Charles says the need to tackle the world's challenges became more evident for him after the birth of his grandson as he highlighted Tuesday the need to harness the creativity of young people to find innovative solutions to those problems.

Known for being outspoken on social and environmental issues, Charles said in a speech in Charlottetown that it's important to see the connections between the planet's challenges and its well-being.

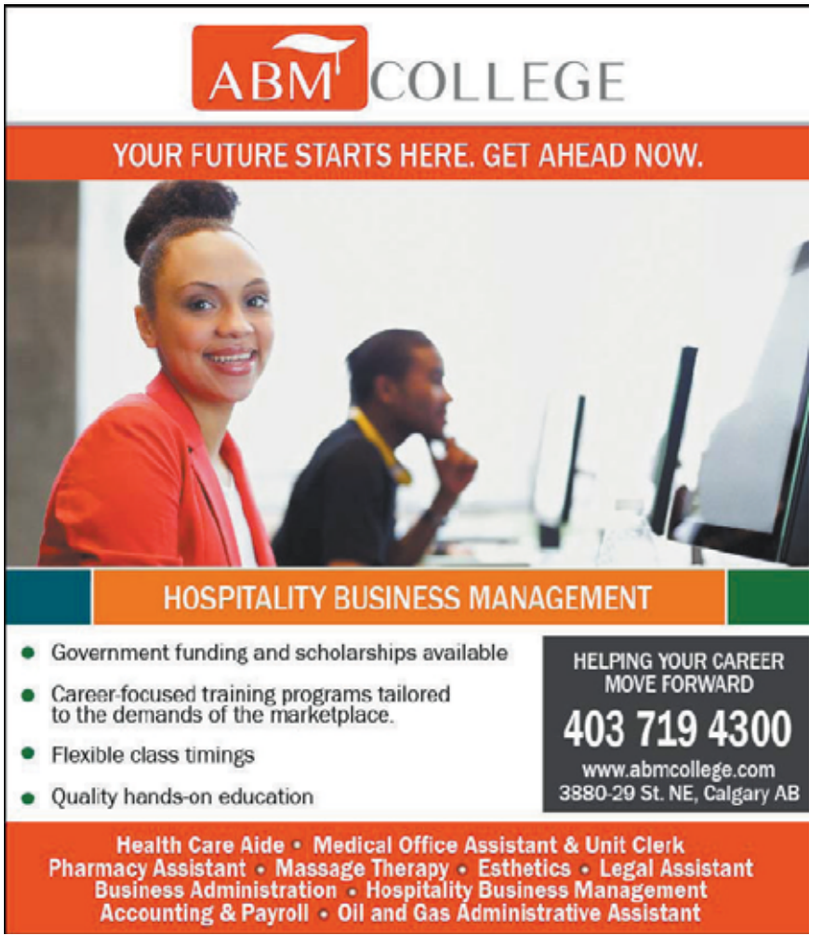
"They all ... rest on the nexus of water, energy and food security and finding common purpose in meeting our common needs," he said.

"These are environmental, economic and social issues all tied together. In other words, the health of nature's life-support systems, which are now under such threat, has a direct bearing upon the health and well-being of people."

Charles listed a number of issues facing the world — including the widening gap between rich and poor, the lack of opportunity for women and girls, youth unemployment, deforestation and overfishing — after he received an honorary Symons Medal for his contribution to Canadian society.

Charles and his wife Camilla were in the middle of a four-day tour of Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS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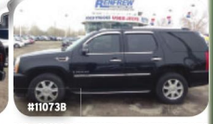

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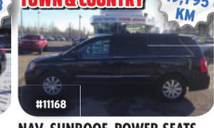

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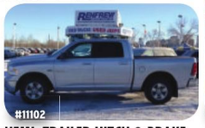

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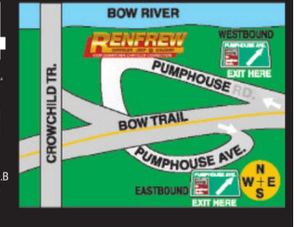

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PM's project. Gates throws the gauntlet before maternal summit

The noted philanthropist Melinda Gates says an unacceptable number of newborn babies are dying in poor countries because the developed world simply isn't investing enough money to save them.

Gates is issuing an international call for more funding as she helps launch new research in the medical journal The Lancet on the plight of new mothers, babies and young children in developing countries.

The frank talk from Gates means more spending pressure on Prime Minister Stephen Harper as he hosts a major international meeting next week on his signature aid initiative — maternal, newborn and child health.

Harper committed $2.8 billion to the cause at the G8 summit Canada hosted in 2010 and is chairing a three-day international meeting in Toronto as a follow-up to raise awareness.

Each year 2.9 million newborn babies die around the world, while another 2.6 million are stillborn, the Lancet study concluded.

That's half the 1990 rate but still too high, according to the 55 experts from 18 countries that contributed to the report. The Lancet study estimates that by 2020 it would cost about 91 cents per person to lower the annual death rate of newborns by 1.3 million, while reducing stillbirths by 530,000 per year. "Canada has been one of the leaders in this," said Dr. Mickey Chopra of the UN. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Newborn deaths

Melinda Gates is the co-chair of the foundation named after her and her husband, Bill. Their foundation joined six countries in contributing to Harper's initiative in 2010.

Activity levels of Canadian kids is behind global pack

Children play in the waters of B.C.'s Semiahmoo Bay. A new report finds Canadian kids aren't getting enough physical activity, especially compared to peers in other countries. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

New report. Canadian children and youth were assigned a D-minus grade for overall activity levels

A new report reveals that the overall physical activity levels of Canadian kids are lagging behind those of youngsters from other nations.

For the first time, Active Healthy Kids Canada is using its annual Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth to see how Canadians measure up to kids in 14 other countries.

The findings were released Tuesday at the first-ever Global Summit on the Physical Activity of Children being held in Toronto.

Canadian children and youth were assigned a D-minus grade for overall physical-activity levels.

Canada trailed near the back of the international pack along with Australia, Ireland and the U.S. — who were also each assigned a D-minus — while Scotland received an F. Mozambique and New Zealand topped the list for activity levels. The report found that 84 per cent of Canadian three- to four-year-olds met early years guidelines of at least 180 minutes of daily physical activity at any intensity. But only seven per cent of five- to 11-year-olds and four per cent of 12- to 17-year-olds in Canada meet guidelines. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Values

"Our country values ... doing more in less time, which may be at direct odds with promoting children's health."
Active Healthy Kids Canada's Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth

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Car bombs kill scores in Nigeria

Twin blasts. Death toll expected to rise beyond the already 118 confirmed dead

Nigeria's emergency agency says twin car bombs that exploded at a bustling bus terminal and market in Nigeria's central city of Jos have killed at least 118 people.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the twin car bombs. But they bore the hallmarks of Boko Haram, the Islamic extremist group that abducted nearly 300 schoolgirls last month and has repeatedly targeted bus stations and other locations where large numbers of people gather in its campaign to impose Islamic law on Nigeria.

The second blast came half an hour after the first, killing some of the rescue workers who had rushed to the scene, which was obscured by billows of black smoke.

Dozens of bodies and body parts were covered in grain that had been loaded in the second car bomb, witnesses said. A Terminus Market official said he helped remove 50 casualties, most of them dead. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not allowed to give information to reporters.

Militants' attacks have been coming with increasing frequency despite a year-old military state of emergency in three of Nigeria's states to curtail the uprising.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Smoke rises after a bomb blast at a bus terminal in Jos, Nigeria, on Tuesday. STEFANOS FOUNDATION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boko Haram. Expert says West is 'late' in fight against terror group

A terrorism expert says western nations, including Canada, are coming late to the game in confronting the extremist group that's seized nearly 300 teenage girls in Nigeria.

The U.S., Britain, Canada, France, Israel and China have all sent teams to the western African country, which has been locked in a deadly struggle with al-Qaida-affiliated Boko Haram for almost a dozen years.

Wesley Wark, one of Canada's foremost experts on international and domestic terrorism, says the recent kidnapping has given the group an international platform and perhaps more notoriety than it deserves.

Washington has acknowledged that it is providing intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance support in an international effort to free the girls.

Wark says Boko Haram has represented a threat to the stability of Nigeria for years, especially in the northern region and in oil- and resource-rich areas. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A mother holds a photo of her daughter, who was amongst nearly 300 teenage school-girls kidnapped by Boko Haram. SUNDAY ALAMBA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Uganda

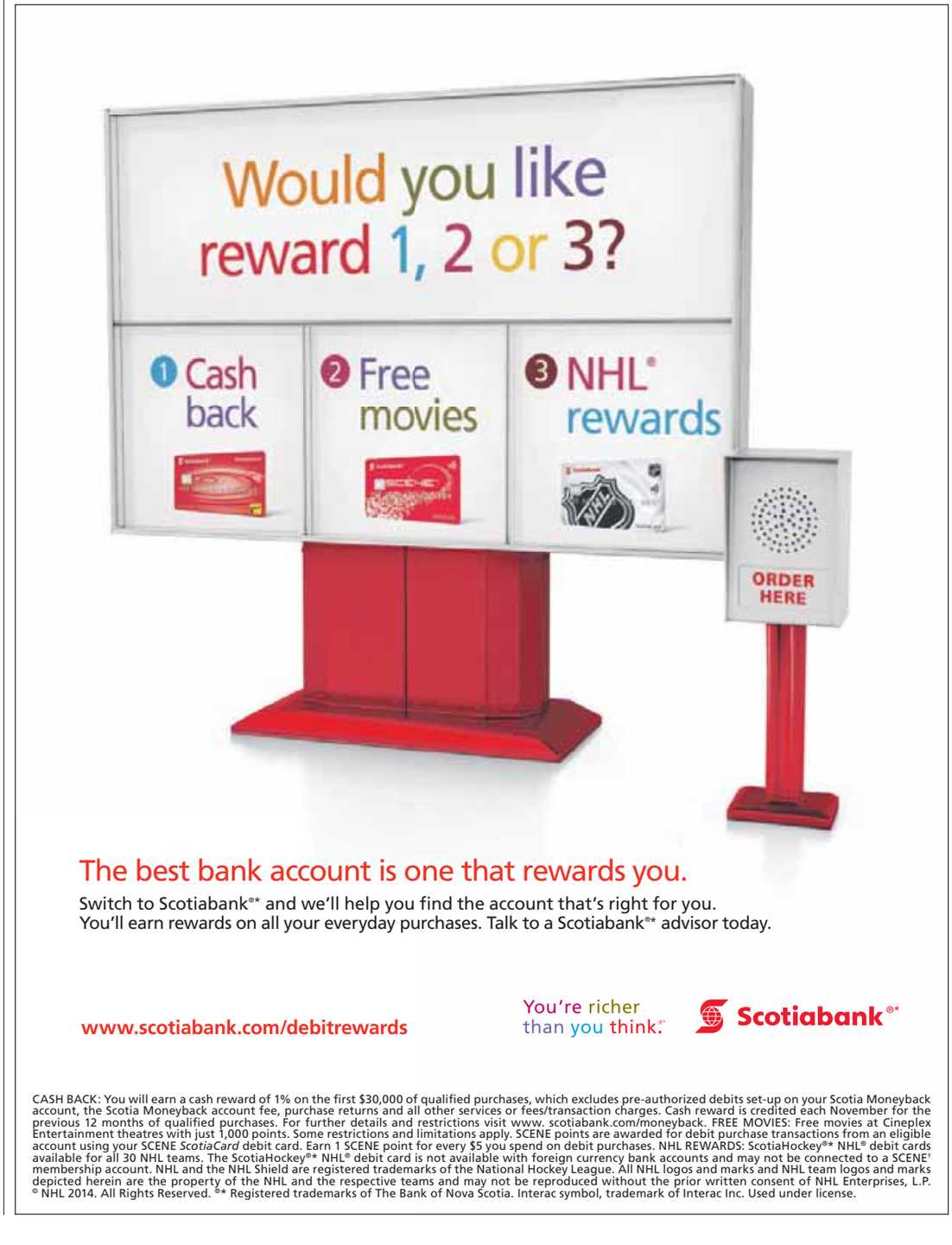
Warlord Kony transfers power to young son

The fugitive African warlord Joseph Kony has handed over command of his group to one of his sons, a Ugandan military official said on Tuesday, an elevation that further marginalizes senior commanders who may threaten Kony's fading authority.

Salim Saleh was born in the 1990s, has spent all his life in the bush and is said to be as ruthless as Kony.

Kony is the subject of an international manhunt involving U.S. forces in parts of Central Africa, where his group — the Lord's Resistance Army — has wreaked havoc over the years in violent rampages that include the abduction of children. The LRA has taken boys who are then forced to become fighters and girls who become sex slaves.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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LSATs. Admission council to stop flagging results of disabled test takers

The organization that administers the Law School Admission Test has agreed to pay roughly $7.7 million to settle allegations that it discriminated against students who sought extra time to take the exam.

Under an agreement with the Justice Department, the Law School Admission Council has also agreed to stop flagging score reports of students who took the test untimed to accommodate learning disabilities.

The payment will compensate more than 6,000 students who applied for the testing accommodations.

LSAC said in a statement that it decided to settle because it didn't make sense to fight it in court.

The council said the justice department had long been aware of its practices but only decided to force a change in 2012, when it intervened in a lawsuit brought by test takers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No fatalities

GM recalls over 180K Canadian cars

Another day, another recall from General Motors. At least that's the way it seems as the automaker reviews safety issues across its lineup of cars and trucks in the wake of a mishandled recall of millions of older small cars.

Three of the recalls affecting a total of 181,500 vehicles sold in Canada, including 105,700 to fix a cable that could wear over time and misalign the gear shifter on Chevrolet Malibu and Pontiac G6 mid-sized cars with four-speed transmissions.

While no fatalities were involved in the latest recalls, the problems were serious enough that GM has temporarily halted sales of the vehicles. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

USDA allows some schools to delay whole-grain menus

'Legitimate concerns.' School administrators say it can be tough to find whole-grain pastas, tortillas and grits

Students pick up their lunch at Barre Town Elementary School in Barre Town, Vt. TOBY TALBOT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will allow some schools to delay adding more whole-grain foods to meals this year, responding to criticism from school nutrition officials and Congress that the standards were too difficult to meet.

The delay comes hours after a Republican-led House spending panel criticized the Obama administration's healthier school-lunch standards and proposed letting some schools opt out for up to two years.

USDA said schools can put off a requirement that grain products in schools be whole-grain rich, or more than half whole grain, if they can demonstrate that they have had "significant challenges" in preparing those products.

"Schools raised legitimate concerns that acceptable whole-grain rich pasta products were not available," said Kevin Concannon, USDA undersecretary for food, nutrition and consumer services.

While many students have adapted easily to whole-grain breads and rolls, school nutrition directors say they are having a harder time with pastas, biscuits, tortillas and grits — all popular items during lunch.

Championed by first lady Michelle Obama, the standards have been phased in over the last two years, with more changes this year, including rules limiting fat, calorie, sugar and sodium in foods. While many have had success putting the rules in place, others have said they are restrictive and costly.

Rep. Robert Aderholt, the Alabama Republican who is chairman of House Agriculture's spending subcommittee, said the school lunch rules have "upset the economics of the school meals program by driving the cost of the plate up while pushing participation down."

In his statement, USDA's Concannon criticized Republicans for going after the standards.

"With one third of American children fighting obesity, we cannot accept politically motivated efforts to undermine standards and deny kids healthier options," he said.

This is not the first time the USDA has tweaked the standards. In 2012, just a few months after they went into effect, the department scrapped maximums on proteins and grains after students complained they were hungry.

The first lady had a call to rally supporters of the healthier food rules Monday. A Senate subcommittee considered its version of the food and farm spending bill Tuesday afternoon but did not propose any changes to school meal programs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Military chief declares martial law in Thailand

Political crisis.
The country has been gripped by turmoil since 2006, when former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was ousted

Residents stop to take a selfie at a military checkpoint in Bangkok on Tuesday. KIKO ROSARIO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thailand's powerful military chief intervened Tuesday for the first time in the country's latest political crisis, declaring martial law and dispatching gun-mounted jeeps into the heart of the capital with a vow to resolve the deepening conflict as quickly as possible.

The move stopped short of a coup and left the nation's caretaker government intact, along with the constitution. Life continued normally with residents unfazed by the news, which follows six months of crippling protests that killed 28 people and injured more than 800.

But the intervention left the country at another precarious crossroads — its fate now in the hands of the military.

Thailand has been gripped by off-and-on political turmoil since 2006, when former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was toppled by a military coup after being accused of corruption, abuse of power and disrespect for Thailand's king.

The army action came a day after Thailand's caretaker prime minister refused to step down, resisting pressure from a group of senators calling for a new interim government with full power to conduct political reforms.

Life in Bangkok and the rest of the country remained largely unaffected, with schools, businesses and tourist sites open and traffic flowing normally. Near one of Bangkok's most luxurious shopping malls, bystanders stopped to snap smiling selfies of themselves with armed soldiers in jeeps and Humvees. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Chamber of horrors.' Spanish university kept donated bodies piled in basement: Reports

A Spanish university is investigating how dozens of bodies donated to medical science came to be piled up in a campus basement, following newspaper publication of grotesque images of the remains dumped in what the daily said resembled a chamber of horrors.

A statement from Madrid Complutense University said the bodies had been due for incineration as their use in research had ended but that spending cuts had caused delays.

It said it was an isolated occurrence and that the newspaper was distorting reality.

El Mundo newspaper photo and video images showed the discarded body parts, some not covered by sheets, piled on shelves and tables.

The papers said there were some 250 bodies and that many had been there for years. It said some were kept in a refrigerated room and compared the images to a mass grave.

The university said it had reached an agreement recently with a funeral company and the bodies would be removed this week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's getting hot in here

Scientists: 2014 saw record April heat

Once again, the world hit record heat levels. The average global temperature last month tied the hottest April on record four years ago. The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Tuesday said last month's average temperature was 14.5 C. That was 0.77 C warmer than the average last century. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Residents try to dig out a car trapped in the mud from a landslide at the village of Topcic Polje, Bosnia-Herzegovina Tuesday. Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia have been hit by the worst flooding in a century, forcing half a million people out of their homes and leading to more than three dozen deaths. SULEJMAN OMERBASIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Worse than the war': Flood victim

Bosnia. Tens of thousands displaced, many for the second time in their lives

It took only a few minutes for a roaring landslide to leave Ramiz Skopljak homeless for the second time in his life.

The first time he had been 47, and though his house was a ruin, the Bosnian war at least left him his land in Topcic Polje, central Bosnia, on which to start anew.

Now he is 65 and even if he could find the folder with the title deed buried somewhere in the mud covering his village it wouldn't help. The land itself has disappeared, along with a chunk of the hill it stood on.

"This is worse than war," the broken man whispered.

His family had to run out of the house so fast on Thursday that none of the eight members could even grab a wallet, a personal document or a mobile phone. They have nothing now.

Skopljak's monthly retirement pay is $295, and he shares it with his wife, his son and his daughter-in-law who are among Bosnia's 44 per cent unemployed.

More than 2,000 landslides have been recorded in the past few days in Bosnia, which along with neighbouring Serbia is struggling with the worst flooding in southeastern Europe in more than a century.

At least 43 people have died in five days of flooding caused by unprecedented torrential rain. Entire towns and villages are under water and tens of thousands have been forced to flee their homes.

Bosnia's Foreign Minister Zlatko Lagumdzija called the flood and landslide damage "immense."

"After the war, people had nothing," he said. "Now they have nothing except bank loans they took to rebuild their homes" at the end of the country's 1992-95 war.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Health hazard

Drowned livestock a new threat

A new calamity emerged Tuesday in the flood-hit Balkans as rescue workers battled overflowing rivers — and were confronted by wastelands of drowned livestock.

As the rainfall stopped and temperatures rose, the withdrawing floodwaters revealed a harrowing sight: thousands of dead cows, pigs, sheep and other animals left behind as their panicked owners fled.

In the northern Bosnian town of Samac, troops used ropes to pull nearly 400 dead cows out of a barn and drove the carcasses away on trucks. In Samac, like many towns, waters rose within hours. Farmers often had no time to free their livestock so that they could attempt to swim to safety. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dead cows that have yet to be taken away by the Bosnian military from a farm near the town of Samac on Tuesday. AMEL EMRIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia. At least 6 dead, 45 injured after train collision near Moscow

A collision between a cargo train and a passenger train near Moscow killed at least six people Tuesday and left up to 45 others injured, Russian officials said.

The Interior Ministry said the accident happened when several cars on a cargo train derailed and hit a passenger train moving on a parallel track near Naro-Fominsk, a town 50 kilometres southwest of Moscow.

Officials issued contradictory claims about the cause of the accident.

Footage from the crash site broadcast by Russian television showed one side of a passenger car torn away by the collision.

Nina Suslonova, the Moscow region's health care minister, told the Rossiya 24 news channel that five people were confirmed dead at the site. Dmitry Pestov, a deputy head of the Moscow region's government, later said that another person died in hospital, the Interfax news agency reported.

Those who were injured were all in the same car.

The Emergency Situations Ministry said 45 people were injured and 25 of them were hospitalized. It said 15 were in grave condition.

The passenger train had been travelling from Moscow to Chisinau, Moldova.

Moscow's public transport department initially said the accident was caused by a crack in the rail, but the Investigative Committee said it occurred when a cargo container came loose and hit the passenger train.

Hundreds of rescue workers, dozens of ambulance crews and several helicopters rushed to the site to help the victims.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oscar Pistorius. Murder trial postponed for psychiatric evaluation

Oscar Pistorius will start a period of psychiatric evaluation at a government institution next week, a judge ruled on Tuesday as she postponed the star athlete's murder trial until June 30.

A panel of mental health experts is now to decide if the double-amputee runner can be held criminally responsible for killing his girlfriend.

Judge Thokozile Masipa said Tuesday that the panel should determine whether any mental illness may have affected Pistorius' capacity to be "criminally responsible" for killing Reeva Steenkamp. She said the panel would evaluate "whether he was capable of appreciating the wrongfulness of his act or of acting in accordance with an appreciation of the wrongfulness of his act."

The period of evaluation will be for no more than 30 days, the judge said, and will depend on how long the panel of four experts needs to observe Pistorius and compile a report for the court. The panel will consist of three psychiatrists and a clinical psychologist, Masipa said.

The world-famous disabled athlete faces 25 years to life in prison if found guilty on the premeditated murder charge. He is free on bail.

Masipa's ruling came on day 33 of proceedings in the trial, which started March 3 and was initially predicted to last three weeks.

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Target aims for bull's-eye with exec shakeup

Changes. Head of Canadian operations is out after retailer's expansion to Canada missed the mark

Target has fired the president of its troubled Canadian operations, Tony Fisher, and is replacing him with a 15-year U.S. company veteran in a bid to address inventory issues and bring customers back into its stores.

The executive shakeup in Canada comes two weeks after the abrupt resignation of Target's CEO and Chairman Gregg Steinhafel.

The third-largest U.S. retailer announced Tuesday that Mark Schindele, 45, who was senior vice-president of merchandising operations, will now run the Canadian operation.

Target's expansion into Canada last year marked its first foray outside the U.S. but it has struggled with losses and weak sales.

The changes are effective immediately.

Schindele has played a key role in launching a new store format including an expanded grocery area, as well as Target Express and CityTarget in the U.S. He has also led a global team and provided senior-level oversight to Target's merchandising operations, including systems, global sourcing and product development.

Schindele will report to Kathee Tesija, chief merchandising and supply-chain officer, whose responsibilities include Target Canada.

Target is trying to fix its flailing operations in Canada while revitalizing business in the U.S. It's also trying to recover from a massive data breach in the U.S. that has lost customer trust. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Target hopes to get more people into their stores in Canada. JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

Apps. The new dating game is on your phone

So, a lady walks into a bar.... Wait, scratch that. A lady takes out her phone. With a left swipe of her finger she dismisses Alex, 25, and Robert, 48. She swipes right when a photo of James, 24, pops up. It's a match. James had swiped right too. They chat and make plans to meet. They're only three miles apart, after all.

Welcome to the new world of dating. As the near-constant use of smartphones proliferates and as people grow more comfortable with disclosing their location, a new class of mobile dating applications is emerging that spans a range as broad as human desire itself. Millennials, busy with school, jobs and social lives, say the apps save time and let users filter out the undesirables, based on a few photos, words and Facebook connections. Unlike the dating websites of yore, with endless profiles to browse and lengthy messages to compose, newer apps offer a sense of immediacy and simplicity that in many ways harkens back to the good old days of just walking up to a pretty stranger and making small talk.

As with potential mates, there's an array to choose from.

ChristianMingle will "find God's match for you." Hinge's promise hinges on its ability to hook you up with friends of friends. Coffee Meets Bagel, meanwhile, will present you with just one potential mate at noon every day. Dattch, with a Pinterest-like interface, is for women seeking women. For men looking for men, there's Grindr, Jack'd, Scruff, Boyahoy and many more. Revealer will let you hear a person's voice and only show photos if you're both interested. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Obama promotes 'Made in America'

U.S. President Barack Obama played the role of business pitchman Tuesday, saluting executives whose companies have chosen to gain or expand their footprint in the United States.

Obama, at the White House, welcomed leaders of 11 foreign and U.S.-based firms, including Canadian leg-wear maker Richelieu, that have opened new plants in the United States or brought back overseas operations.

Obama cited low energy costs, a productive workforce and a "dynamic economy" as major U.S. attractions for corporate investment.

"We want folks to know this is a great place to do business," he told the executives, including Ericsson North America chief executive Angel Ruiz and Lufthansa chairman and chief executive Carsten Spohr.

The roundtable discussion by the executives and top White House officials was part of a week devoted to promoting foreign investments in the United States.

Obama is showcasing the effect of an improving economy on job growth during a congressional election year that finds the public still anxious about employment and financial well-being.

"The rest of the world is seeing the benefits of 'Made in America,' and for good reason," said Jeff Zients, a top Obama adviser and director of the National Economic Council. "Our competitive advantage is very clear." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Human rights

Germany clamps down on exports of surveillance tech

Germany says it will restrict exports of surveillance technology to states that fail to respect their citizens' human rights.

Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel says the move is designed to prevent spy software "Made in Germany" from being used for repression by autocratic regimes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Turning the tables?

China, America in war of words over cyberspying

China on Tuesday warned the United States was jeopardizing military ties by charging five Chinese officers with cyberspying and tried to turn the tables on Washington by calling it "the biggest attacker of China's cyberspace."

The Foreign Ministry demanded Washington withdraw the indictment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spain

Flurry of allegedly anti-Semitic tweets follows game

Jewish organizations in Spain have asked prosecutors to investigate some 18,000 allegedly anti-Semitic insults sent via Twitter following a weekend European basketball game.

The complaints refer to tweets sent after Israel's Maccabi Tel Aviv beat Spain's Real Madrid.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KIMYE: APRÈS MARIAGE, LE DÉLUGE

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Coming up this week: the defining moment of our age.

Famous-for-nothing Kim Kardashian is marrying the Biggest Ego on the Planet, "Yeezus" Kanye West, at the Forti De Belvedere in Florence on Saturday, the day after they and their guests take a private tour of the Palace of Versailles, former home of Louis XV, who famously said, "Après moi, le déluge."

Well, it never rains, but it pours.

The original plan was for the couple to be married in Versailles, but the people who run the palace must have learned something after the wretched excesses of the Sun King and Marie Antoinette and will only allow a tour.

Of course, the palace is just a tumbrel ride away from the Place de la Concorde in downtown Paris, where former occupants of the palace lost their heads, victims of the wrath of the Republic.

The only mobs following Kim and Kanye around are paparazzi, although they're bad enough: Kim eats an ice cream cone on the Left Bank! Kim goes to the gym! Kim shows half a boob in display of pre-wedding fitness! Nothing about this wedding and its preparations escapes the scrutiny of the tabloid channels.

For example: Kim turned up in Paris with 10 suitcases, which must have made for an interesting answer to the question "Avez-vous quelque chose à déclarer?"

And this: the ice cream flavour was brittle nut macadamia, and the couple ordered two scoops.

The bill came to 14 euros, which is like 10 bucks an ice cream cone.

"J'adore Paris," observed KK.

Come on! How much more of this can we take? A lot, apparently. It's only Wednesday.

Am I the only one left in the world to remember that Kim Kardashian has done absolutely nothing to acquire her vast, social-media stoked wealth and fame?

Nobody else seems to care. Celebrity is celebrity. Kim has even spawned a growth industry called Kardashian.

For example, on the same day La Kim went out for ice cream on the Left Bank, her kid brother Rob engaged in a Tweet fest with the media because he is fat.

I mean, 35 per cent of the U.S. over-20 population is fat.

That's not news. Or it's bad news. But it's Rob Kardashian's claim to fame. In fact, the body weight of the entire clan is a national obsession. Kim and her sisters Kourtney and Khloé alert the media every time their clothes fit.

But really, it's all about Kim.

If I'm Kanye West and I'm touring the fabulous Hall of Mirrors on Friday, I might cast a quick glance at myself and make sure I still cast a reflection.

Because even the world's largest ego is going to have trouble keeping up with the Kardashian(s).

Yeezus.

ZOOM

Banding together for mascot

Emit, a four-week-old southern three-banded armadillo, eats banana off the hand of a zookeeper. A group in Brazil hopes the fact that the endangered armadillo is the World Cup mascot will raise awareness at all levels of society about the importance of saving the armadillo and its natural habitat. TOM UHLMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saving the three-banded armadillo

A Brazilian environmental group has launched an effort to save the endangered three-banded armadillo, the mascot for the World Cup starting next month.

The armadillo is in danger of extinction, largely because of deforestation and hunting in its habitat in the shrub lands of northeastern Brazil. Its meat is considered a delicacy by many in the region.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World Cup baller

Those risks in large part are why the armadillo was chosen as World Cup mascot. Another is that when it's frightened, it rolls up into a ball small enough to fit into one hand, looking like a tan soccer ball.

Its hard shell protects it from its natural predators, jaguars and foxes, but it becomes easy prey for hunters since it does not dig a hole to hide in.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

One at a time

- The female produces only a single young in each litter, which is born extremely well-developed, having the appearance of a miniature version of the adult.
- This small reproductive output rate contributes to the species' low numbers.

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MetroTube

Geminid showers coming up all flowers

ANDREW FIFIELD
metronews.ca

There's a wonderful little corner of YouTube devoted to Kenneth Brandon and his time-lapsed eye-candy series with an eye turned toward the night skies above California's more rugged spaces.

This beautiful footage of 2012's Geminid meteor shower over Big Sur is a nice example of his prodigious output. If you find yourself impressed, be sure to check out more of his work at youtube.com/kennethbrandon. (Via Kenneth Brandon/YouTube)

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Blended mix meets match

When two families commingle. From The Brady Bunch to its film granddaddy, Yours, Mine and Ours, Hollywood loves a blended family story

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

The Brady Bunch is pop culture's most famous blended family.

The story of a "lovely lady who was bringing up three very lovely girls," and a "man named Brady with three boys of his own," who "would somehow form a family," ran for fives seasons on TV, endlessly in reruns and even spawned two movies.

"The Brady Bunch is a live-action modern fairy tale of family," says Christopher Knight who played Peter Brady on the original show. "In this context it's less odd that it's lasted for over 30 years; and why it may last in some respects as long as Mother Goose!"

He may be optimistic on the eternal appeal of his show, but he's not wrong to imply that the idea of blended families could remain the subject of stories and movies for years to come.

This weekend "cinematic soulmates" Drew Barrymore and Adam Sandler reunite for a third time, following The Wedding Singer and 50 First Dates, for Blended, a romantic comedy about the mixing and mingling of two families.

Hollywood has been blending screen families for years. The grandfather of these blended family stories has to be Yours, Mine and Ours.

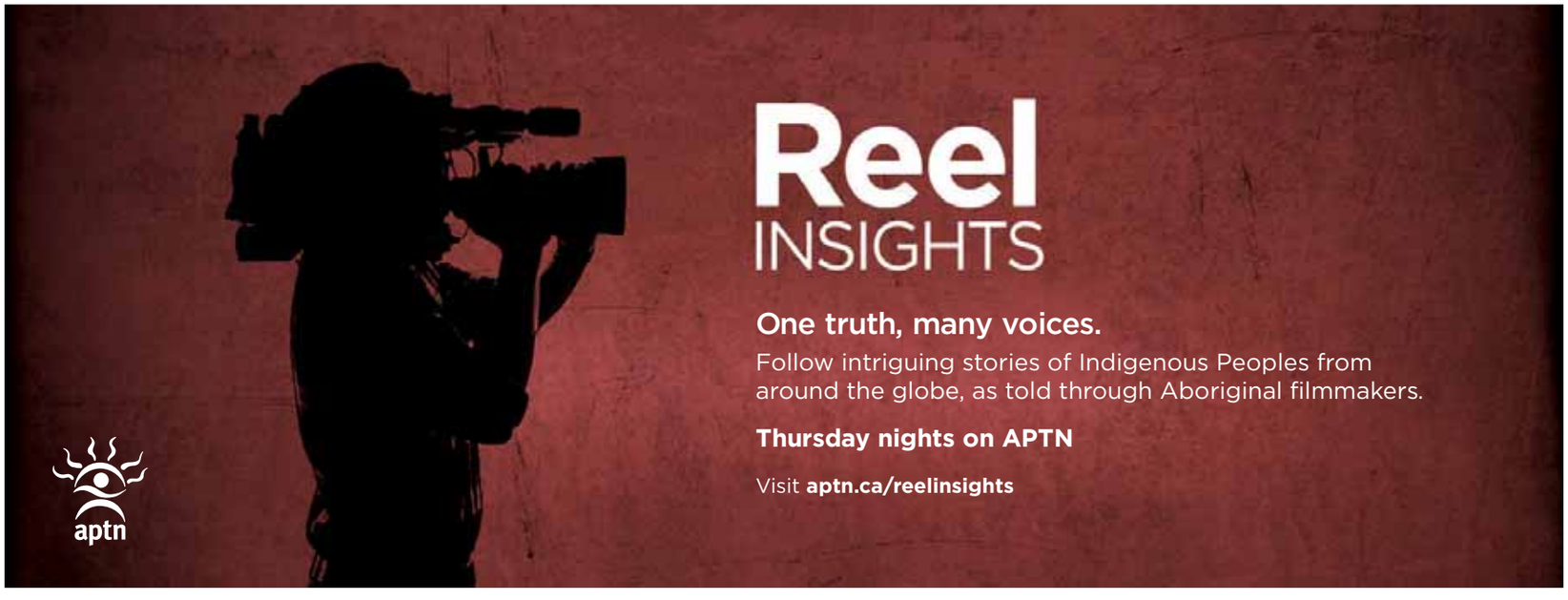
Based on the memoir Who Gets the Drumstick? by Helen Beardsley, this 1968 Lucille Ball, Henry Fonda film sees a widow with eight kids and a widower with 10 children (including Mike, played by Tim Matheson 10 years before he found fame in Animal House) become one big (almost) happy family.

Drew Barrymore and Adam Sandler play a widowed mom and a divorced dad who meet on a family safari after a disastrous blind date in Blended. CONTRIBUTED

The film was produced by Ball, who became so friendly with the Beardsleys she treated all 20 of them to a trip to Disneyland. ABC and Paramount Studios were so impressed with the film they gave the green light to the similarly themed The Brady Bunch show.

The same year, movie legend Doris Day made her final big-screen appearance in With Six You Get Egg Roll, a blended family story about a widow with three sons who marries a man with a daughter. The kids don't see eye to eye, but soon figure out a way to live together. Released so soon after Yours, Mine and Ours, Eggroll got good reviews, but, as Roger Ebert wrote at the time, "would probably seem funnier if it didn't suffer by comparison."

Finally, Step Brothers is an R-rated look at extreme Peter Pan Syndrome. Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly play 40ish men who become bunkmates and reluctant stepbrothers when their parents (Mary Steenburgen and Richard Jenkins) marry. The familiar reprimand "Grow up and act your age" fell on deaf ears with these guys. It's like watching two overweight, foul-mouthed 10-year-olds with thinning hair going at each other, but it is good vulgar fun.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Two Professor X's meet for X-Men powwow

Get ready for nerd heads to explode.
Professors Xavier past and future share electrifying scene in latest X-Men film

MATT PRIGGE
Metro in New York City

X-Men: Days of Future Past allows for a rare occurrence, not only in the comics franchise but in all movies. It's a time travel picture, with the older mutants sending Hugh Jackman's Wolverine back to 1973 to thwart a dystopian future where they're hunted and killed by government robots. That means that we see both the old and young versions of Professor Charles Xavier (Patrick Stewart and James McAvoy, respectively), as well as two Magnetos (Ian McKellen and Michael Fassbender).

That doesn't mean the actors actually get to share scenes — though Stewart and McAvoy do, once, when both characters meet in their conjoined mind for a little, nerd-electrifying powwow.

"It was James' first day of work and it was my last day of work," recalls Stewart of the day it was shot. "My bags were packed and I was read to get out of Dodge." He says they didn't belabour the scene. "I don't recall rehearsing it. We knew the lines and they rolled the cameras and it was four minutes' work. I shouldn't have said that. I should have said we worked on it for weeks."

For McAvoy, he obviously had much to draw on for his performance. "I've been a fan [of Stewart's] for years," McAvoy says. "I watched the [X-Men] films, and Star Trek, all the way back to Dune. I don't know if anyone remembers Dune." (Stewart played a mulleted Gurney Halleck in the 1984 David Lynch film.) It wasn't just about nailing Stewart's performance style, though. "I was watching the empathy that pours out of him in the previous movies. It's the prime characteristic of Professor X: This willingness to care and reach out and help."

James McAvoy, left, and Patrick Stewart in X-Men: Days of Future Past. ALAN MARKFIELD/20TH CENTURY FOX/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

He wasn't the only one studying another actor's performance. Stewart did the same to McAvoy. "It made me (want) to go back and shoot it again, now that I knew where I came from. I could get so much more James McAvoy into that performance," he says, somewhat joking.

At the same time, Charles Xavier is in a very different spot than he has been in any other movie. "We've seen the good professor, who has always had options, and those options have been through negotiation, persuasion, some resolution that will not be violent," Stewart says. "From the beginning of this movie, there is no other option. Our enemy this time is not available for rational conversation or to be reasoned with. The professor has to make the decision to destroy something to survive. It toughened Xavier up."

Sadly, Ian McKellen could not attend the press junket, which would have reunited him in New York City with his dear friend and funny-picture buddy, Stewart. That also meant the two Magnetos couldn't butt heads. In fact, McKellen and Fassbender didn't even see each other on-set.

"We sort of kept missing each other," Fassbender recalls. That doesn't mean he wasn't studying him anyway. "For this one I spent a lot of time with this video on YouTube, which was Ian McKellen in the 1970s doing this workshop on 'Macbeth.' I was playing that over and over again, getting more of the rhythms and tones of his voice." This of course means they don't get the on-screen meet-up that the two Xaviers enjoyed. "Unfortunately we didn't get a scene together. We flipped a coin and James and Patrick won the toss."

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Charlize shares that things are haPenning with Sean

Charlize Theron is finally opening up about her blossoming relationship with Sean Penn, and all it took was an interview with Vanity Fair. "Sean and I have known each other for 18 years. We were just really good friends," she tells the magazine. "And it's been slow going because you are aware that you could screw that up and lose it. We had to think about it. But at the end of the day, it was somewhat effortless. It just kind of naturally happened, and before I knew it I was in something that was making my life better. The people who really love me can see the effect it has had on me." She does admit, though, that the paparazzi attention has made developing a relationship a bit awkward. "I don't know how you have a healthy relationship with the whole world knowing about it," she says. "Look, we're dating, and I don't think we were trying to hide anything. We were photographed, the relationship was kind of written about. I recently did a daylong press junket, which I hadn't done in forever, and it's a harsh reminder that whatever people try to hide a press junket behind, it's really a roundabout way of getting at as much private s— as they can. It was all about what I like to eat and avoiding questions about Sean or my son."

Sandra Bullock

Sandra speaks: Actress advises teens about life, love and nose-picking

Seniors at Warren Easton Charter High School in New Orleans got quite a surprise when their graduation speaker turned out to be none other than Oscar-winner Sandra Bullock, according to E! News. And Bullock had some choice advice for the young adults in attendance. "Stop worrying so much. I don't remember any of the moments in my life where I worried. Raise the bar higher. Nothing is a failure, it's just not supposed to work out," she told the crowd. "Eat something green every day. Do not pick your nose in public — how about we just go get a tissue? When someone who cares about you hugs you, hug them back. If someone doesn't want to play with you, it's OK. Not everybody is going to love us. And last but not least, go find your joy. It's what you're going to remember in the end. It's not the worry, it's not the what-ifs. It's the joy that stays with you."

Twitter

@robkardashian
I'm aware that I'm fat that def aint a surprise to me lol and my only therapy will be in the gym anyways had to say somethinggggggggg

@ConanOBrien
The next Jurassic Park movie should take place on an island where they've revived a working Blockbuster Video.

@lenadunham
Watched 2 older women trying on orthopedic shoes. Woman #1: "your feet look so small!" Woman #2: "but do they look TOO small, is it WEIRD!?"

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Finding the real Istanbul

Wanderlust. Turkey's famed city has your typical tourist haunts, but stray from beaten path for so much more

The Istanbul neighbourhood of Karakoy, with its cafés and galleries, has become a hub for the young. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Istanbul, the noisy Turkish metropolis on the Bosporus Strait lauded by many a travel ranking, has much more to offer than grand mosques and bazaars. Away from the din of typical tourist haunts, a walk around the neighbourhoods of Karakoy, Balat and Kuzguncuk will peel back the surface to reveal the city's multilayered history. As proof of Turkey's popularity, TripAdvisor just named the country the world's top destination, based on the website's ratings and user reviews.

Karakoy

Descending from the Galata Tower in the Beyoglu district, often regarded as the "pulse of Istanbul," one of the city's steepest hills will lead to Karakoy, an up-and-coming area hemming the Bosporus Strait. This one-time industrial neighbourhood is still home to a number of shops where anything from fishing equipment to Bunsen burners can be procured. But the hardware stores and workshops must now negotiate their space with new galleries and cafés that have created a hub for young hipsters. Past the Karakoy ferry terminal, one street over from the water, look for Namli Gurme, a restaurant and small marketplace offering a large selection of "mezes," or cold appetizers. Also served here is a cut of meat called "lokum," which means Turkish delight and is the term for anything wildly tasty and juicy (unlike the narrower meaning of the term Turkish delight outside the country, referring only to chewy sugary candies).

Balat

The Balat district is a quiet historic area by the Golden Horn, the narrowest stretch of the Bosporus. Its twisting streets and weathered houses, like antiques in an open museum, echo a past occupied by waves of Jewish, Greek, Bulgarian and Armenian residents. The area is now home mainly to working-class Turks from Black Sea towns and Central Anatolia. Adventurous tourists who can find the beauty in the decaying buildings and are willing to forgo the reliability of a map will enjoy wandering the hilly streets. Walking from the Galata Bridge by the seaside toward the end of the Golden Horn, the Gul Mosque is not to be missed. Formerly known as Saint Theodosia church, the cross-in-square orthodox church was converted into a mosque by Ottomans.

Kuzguncuk

On the Asia side of this continental crossroads of a city, the quiet, pictorial village of Kuzguncuk is minutes away from the Uskudar ferry terminal. It's lauded as a quieter, perhaps less jaded version of upscale Ortakoy on the European side. It is another well-known Jewish quarter, home to two synagogues. Among the seaside fish restaurants bearing views of the Bosporus Bridge, Ismet Baba generates the most fanfare. Uryanizade Sokak, running perpendicularly from Ismet Baba and the seaside, is a restored street lined with Ottoman houses and studios for artists. Farther north, the waterside showcases a string of Istanbul's famous classic wooden-framed mansions, known as "yali." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Three sisters are making Nepalese dreams come true

Climbing to the top. After facing harassment as trekking guides, the Chettri sisters decided to start their own company focused on females

From left, Lucky, Dicky and Nicky are the three sisters behind 3 Sisters.

Instructors at the 3 Sisters Adventure Trekking Company provide lessons on climbing a rock surface in Pokhara, Nepal. ALL PHOTOS: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nepalese female climbing guides make about $3,000 a year, a better-than-average salary in Nepal.

When Lucky, Dicky and Nicky Chettri tried to break into Nepal's male-dominated trekking industry 20 years ago, competitors tried to run them out of business. They say men threatened them, harassed them — even filed bogus police reports against them.

"The men said this is a business for the men and we should leave it alone," said Lucky, the eldest Chettri sister in the 3 Sisters Adventure Trekking Company. "They would even accuse us of trying to take away food from their table."

Now the sisters have a booming business and a waiting list of Nepalese women who want to join their six-month training program for mountain guides.

The rise of the Chettri sisters' business in many ways reflects the increasing clout of women in Nepal, which remains in most ways a deeply patriarchal country.

Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay first climbed Mount Everest in 1953, but it was another 40 years before the first Nepali woman reached the peak. Since then, women have made progress in politics, education and business.

About five per cent of Nepali politicians were female in 1990, but women won a third of the seats in the 2008 parliamentary election. Some discriminatory laws have been changed, including one that allowed only sons to inherit parental property.

Shailee Basnet, who led a 10-member Nepali women's team to Everest in 2008, said the number of women in trekking and mountaineering has risen as well, and she gave credit to the Chettri sisters.

"They have started a trend for women to take up this profession. Women guiding foreign trekkers in the region has become a normal thing now," she said.

The Chettris came up with the idea of opening a woman-run trekking agency when they heard from foreign female travellers who were harassed, even sexually assaulted and threatened by their own male guides while trekking remote mountain trails.

"These girls were really afraid and felt insecure," said Lucky, 48, at their office next to the picturesque Phewa lake.

The sisters once led trips themselves, but had trouble finding more women who knew trekking, spoke English and were willing to spend days walking with the foreigners away from home. Their solution was to bring the women to Pokhara and train them for months.

"At the beginning it was very unusual for the women to join our program because they had to leave their homes for many days, working with Westerners," said Nicky, the youngest of the sisters. "Some thought it was against our culture because women are expected to be at home doing household work."

But soon the word spread. "These women began to like the idea that they don't need to depend on their husbands for money," Nicky said.

Gam Maya Tilicha, 25, once planned to become a teacher but is now a full-time guide at the agency.

"I never imagined that I would be a trekking guide. But the income is very good and I like what I am doing — meeting people from all over the world and travelling to new places in Nepal," she said.

The sisters take in 40 students every six months, giving them free housing, food and clothing. The money earned from the trekking agency supports the training.

Once they graduate, they make about $3,000 a year from guiding tourists, a better-than-average salary in this poor Himalayan nation. Monika Rai, a 19-year-old student, hopes it leads to something better.

"I am here to learn the skills of trekking and English language so that I can become a guide and make more money than in any other jobs," she said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Bucket List

Cruise down the Amazon in luxury

Next month, boutique cruise company Rainforest Cruises is launching the M/V Cattleya, an intimate eight-passenger boat ready to set sail to the remote Pacaya-Samiria Reserve in the Loreto region of the Peruvian Amazon. Wind through tributaries and channels, spotting rarely seen wildlife (including the pink river dolphins) and communing with local indigenous tribespeople. The boat's five-star feel is underscored by fine linens, great food made with exotic local ingredients, en-suite bathrooms and best of all — air conditioning, a blessing in the Amazon humidity. Four- and five-day cruises start at about $2,400. RainforestCruises.com.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

Four tips for taking great pics

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

I love taking photos when I travel. However, apart from following the rule of thirds — two thirds sky, one third land (or vice versa) — I don't actually know what I'm doing.

I asked four professional photographers for their tips on how we amateurs can best capture those perfect moments.

Here they share some of their secrets for taking the kind of travel photo you'll want to hang on your wall.

PHOTOS: PETER REMUS

Portrait perfect

My recipe for a perfect portrait is to never photograph people with their back or face to the sun. If sunlight is behind them, the camera will autofocus on the person and the background will be lost or it will autofocus on the background and your subject will be blacked out. If the person is facing the sun, likely they will be squinting in the direct light and their face will be bleached out. So make sure to have the sunlight either to the left or right of their face and then use your flash to light up the other half of your subject.

CONNOR REMUS
CONNORREMUSPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Bad weather makes for good pictures

Scenery is always a favourite subject for travellers. Before shooting, think about what drew your attention to the place. Light is a key factor. The best pictures are often made at the beginning or end of the day, or surprisingly, in changeable and bad weather.

GARY CRALLE
GCRALLE4.WIX.COM/GARY-CRALLE

Beauty really is in the eye

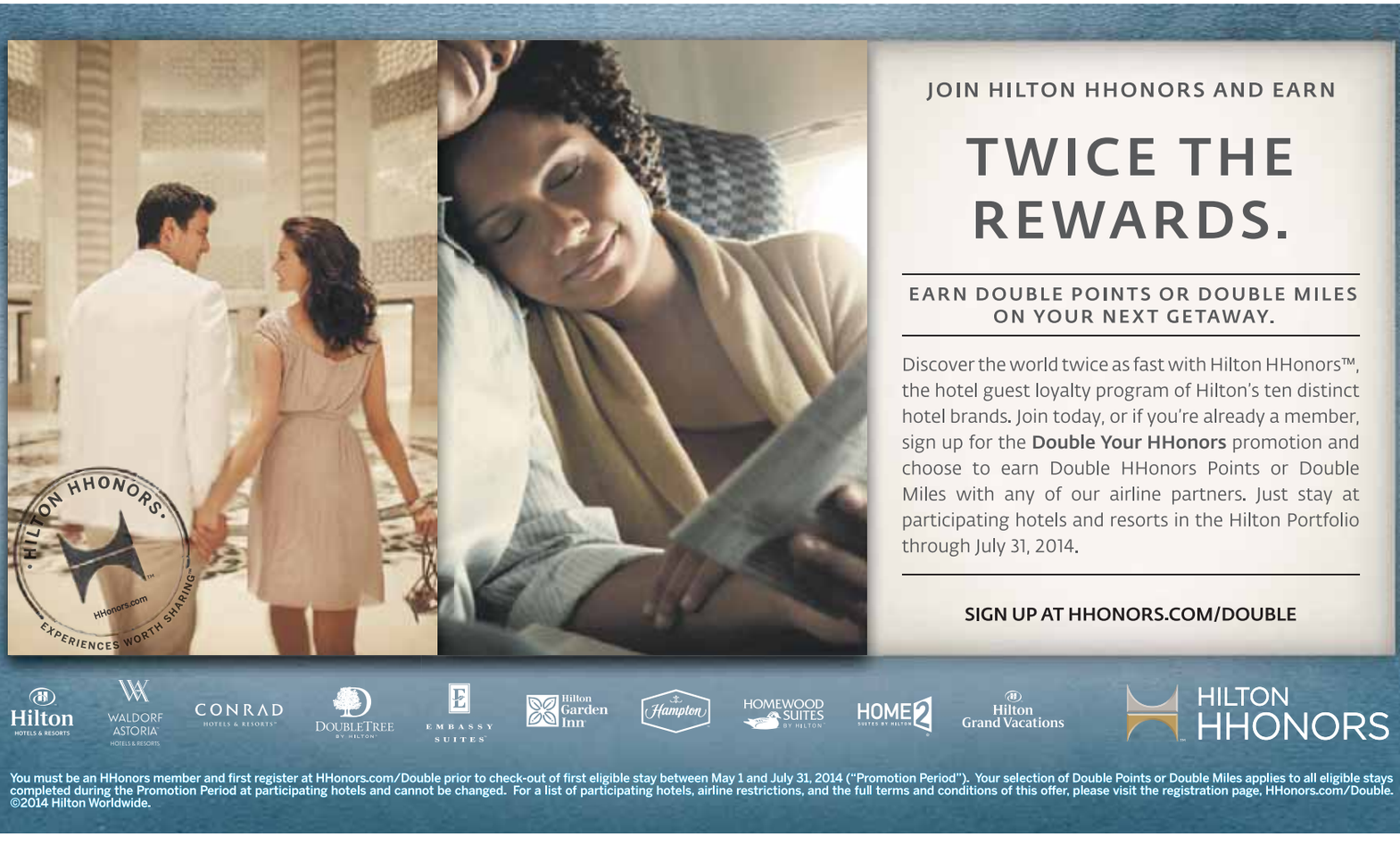
When shooting wildlife, make sure the animal's eyes are in sharp focus. A sharp eye provides a strong and intriguing focal point for most viewers. An out-of-focus eye lacks interest. Next, pick an angle that puts the sun behind you and over one of your shoulders. This shooting angle will produce a twinkle in the animal's eye that helps you avoid that dark dead-eye look.

MICHAEL DEFREITAS
IWRITETRAVEL.COM

Keep your camera at the ready

I like a camera to be convenient. Travel with something that will fit in your pocket. Have some method of backing up your photos as you travel — an online service, downloading to a tablet or laptop, or burning back-up discs as you go.

ADAM RANKIN
ADAMRANKIN.COM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A serving of spring

This recipe serves six. EMILY RICHARDS

Vegetable Primavera.

The word 'primavera' literally means 'spring' in Italian. Add asparagus and fiddleheads for a seasonal touch

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

Once May hits, fresh vegetables become a bigger part of everyone's kitchen repertoire. Outdoor markets also begin to flourish and become colourful.

Taking the time to stroll through the market or grocery store can easily become daunting, so make a list! Choose a few great delicious recipes for the week and make your list, then set your sights on the market and grocer.

There is always a little room for wandering, but if time is of the essence, that grocery list will make you more efficient and ensure you're not wasting veggies by not using them.

Primavera means springtime in Italian, which makes sense as this dish showcases fresh vegetables and colours.

My version uses vegetable cocktail juice, which many people have on hand. It can, however, be easily substituted with your favourite pasta sauce.

Use your favourite spring vegetables like asparagus or fiddleheads. But don't worry that seasonality will ruin this dish, because your can get peppers, tomatoes and peas year-round! When you get bored, change up the vegetables and use a variety of colours. This pasta is also a wonderful way to use up leftover roasted or grilled vegetables.

Normally made with just vegetables, this version uses tofu for an added twist and a hit of protein.

Grind some fresh black pepper to finish the dish.

1. In non-stick skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Brown tofu on all sides for about 3 minutes; remove to plate.

2. In same skillet over medium heat; cook garlic and red pepper flakes for 30 seconds. Add vegetable cocktail juice and stir to combine. Add asparagus, red pepper, carrot and zucchini; cook, stirring 10 minutes or until vegetables are tender crisp.

3. Meanwhile, in large pot of boiling salted water; cook fettuccine for about 8 minutes or until tender but firm. Drain and add to skillet. Stir in reserved tofu and toss to coat well. Sprinkle with parsley, if using and cheese.

FLASH FOOD

From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp (15 ml) extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 cups (500 ml) cubed firm tofu
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) hot pepper flakes
- 1 cup (250 ml) vegetable cocktail juice
- 2 cups (500 ml) chopped fresh asparagus or peas
- 1 red bell pepper, thinly sliced
- 1 carrot, julienned
- 1 yellow or green zucchini, julienned
- 8 oz (227 g) whole-wheat fettuccine or linguine pasta
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) chopped fresh Italian parsley (optional)
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) freshly grated Parmesan cheese

Sending out those CVs too swiftly can lead to a legacy of 'We'll let you know'

Resumé on the run.
Remember to take extra care when you're casting your net extra-wide

LAUREN MARINIGH
TalentEgg.ca

Don't be so speedy with your CV that you forget to check your spelling. ISTOCK

Everyone has been there: You're in such desperate need of a job, be it part-time or full-time, that you're sending out applications to just about anyone.

But now, having submitted multiple resumés, you can't quite figure out why you're not hearing back from employers. Here are some common things you may be doing that affect your job application.

Nothing says "hire me" like a blank email

Typing up a personalized email for every single place you apply is time-consuming.

You may think everything that the employer needs to know is in your attached resumé and cover letter, but a blank email shouts: "I'm too lazy to take the time to personalize this application for you."

Your email doesn't need to be (and shouldn't be) as detailed as your cover letter, but you should give your potential employer a brief overview of yourself, what job you're applying for, and why.

If a company receives hundreds of job applications, the ones that have blank emails will have an even harder time standing out from the pack and making it to the next round in the process.

Your resumé is just straight-up terrible

You're young and you may not have loads of work experience.

That's fine, but in 2014 there's no reason your resumé should have zero layout, be extremely disorganized, and/or be longer than if you had 20-plus years' experience.

It's so easy to have a clean, crisp resumé. Get started by searching "free resumé templates" in Google and download one ASAP; all you'll need to do is fill in the blanks.

In the long run, you'll probably want to make a resumé from scratch, but seeing samples can help you start thinking about (and planning) your own.

If you don't have much work experience, showcase other accomplishments you may have, such as volunteer experience or extra-curricular activities. There's no reason your resumé should include your education alone.

It should be no longer than two pages, and there's really no reason it should be more than one. Take a look at what's on your resumé: The drama award you won in Grade 5 is probably irrelevant now.

You miss important details on your resumé/cover letter

Everyone has done it — sent out an application without changing some key pieces of information.

Forgetting to change your career objective or including a cover letter for the wrong position are both surefire ways to get overlooked.

Take your time when applying for jobs and proofread everything. When an employer gets an application with the wrong company and position listed on it, it'll more than likely go straight into the trash, no matter how qualified you are.

Job description? What job description?

You got so excited when you realized a new position had opened up at your favourite business or dream workplace that you forgot to read the entire job description before you applied.

Had you read the job description, you'd realize that the employer asked for you to attach a portfolio (which you didn't), or asked for someone who speaks French (which you don't).

Don't waste your time, or an employer's. Take the time to read the job description thoroughly and make sure you have the specific skills required for the role.

TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

Twitter

TalentEgg #QuestionoftheDay: Should you follow up after an interview? Why?

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@TRSMcareers
Definitely! It shows that you want the job and you can restate why you are the perfect fit for the position and the company!

@StudentsDotOrg
Yes! Stand out, remind them who you are/why you're interested

@OTCoop
A well-written & thoughtful thank you note differentiates you from the rest. (Just make sure it's sincere though and not forced!)

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SPORTS 4

Rangers forward rich in experience

Conference finals. After winning a cup in '04, Brad Richards taking on a new role in New York

Brad Richards celebrates after scoring a goal against the Canadiens in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals on Saturday. A decade after winning his last cup, Richards has emerged as a leader in New York. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

It's Brad Richards' turn to be the old hand, tutoring his young New York Rangers teammates on what it's like to win a Stanley Cup.

It wasn't like that in 2004, when Richards and teammate Martin St. Louis won the cup with the Tampa Bay Lightning.

"This whole playoffs it's been fun to do that," the 34-year-old Richards said Tuesday. "When I was in Tampa, Marty also, we didn't really have a clue what we were doing.

"We were first time through it, leaning on other people, older people, asking them all the questions. It's fun to try to gather the group and talk about things. This group has come together so much and they ask a lot of questions. They make fun of us a lot for doing that, too, but it's fun to try to help out that way."

The Rangers are two wins away from a trip to the Stanley Cup final after taking the opening two games of the NHL Eastern Conference final from the Canadiens in Montreal.

They swamped the flat-footed Canadiens 7-2 in the series opener on Saturday afternoon, but then needed a 40-save effort from goalie Henrik Lundqvist to pull out a 3-1 win in a major Montreal push-back on Monday night.

Game 3 is set for Thursday night at Madison Square Garden.

In 2004, the Canadiens came back to beat Boston in the opening round but then were swept by the Lightning. This year, Montreal is again coming off a Game 7 win over the Bruins and is in danger of losing in four straight.

That has Richards, a P.E.I. native who played junior hockey in Quebec with the Rimouski Oceanic, and Montreal native St. Louis at 6-0 in career playoff games against the Canadiens.

Their message to teammates who haven't won a cup is to not let the opportunity slip away. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Breaking the Hab-it

Montreal coach Michel Therrien said his team is confident it can still win the series if it gives up fewer odd-man rushes and keeps up the fast-paced game it brought on Monday.

- "I believe that we will turn it around," said Therrien. "The first game was tough for us emotionally and physically. "We didn't get much time between Game 7 (against Boston) and Game 1 (against the Rangers), and it was an afternoon game. It shows in the result. But I thought we regrouped really well. We were a team that played with a lot of energy, that was pushing the pace, and we played a solid game."
- Therrien spoke to the media on a conference call while his players took what he said was a much-needed day off. They will practise on Tuesday before flying to New York.

Memorial Cup

Foreurs move on to semifinal with win over Oil Kings

Val-d'Or centre Anthony Richard scored the double overtime winner in a 4-3 victory over the Edmonton Oil Kings at the Memorial Cup on Tuesday.

The Foreurs, 2-1, advanced to Friday's semifinal with the marathon win that ended with Richard scoring on a breakaway at 1:15 of the second overtime.

The Oil Kings, 1-2, will either join the Foreurs in the semifinal for a rematch or face the host London Knights in a tie-breaker Thursday.

Pierre-Maxime Poudrier scored short-handed for the Foreurs with captain Samuel Henley and Shawn Ouellette-St-Amant also contributing a goal apiece for the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League champions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA draft lottery

Another Canadian kid in Cleveland?

The Cleveland Cavaliers have continued their remarkable lottery luck, winning the No. 1 pick in the NBA draft for the second straight year.

It's the third time in four years the Cavs will be atop the draft after moving up from the ninth spot. They had just a 1.7 per cent chance of winning the top spot Tuesday night.

They drafted Toronto's Anthony Bennett last year, and Andrew Wiggins, also of Toronto, is expected to be selected first this year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Miami's Norris Cole goes to the basket as David West and Roy Hibbert of the Indiana Pacers defend during Game 2 of the Eastern Conference finals on Tuesday in Indianapolis. The series is now tied 1-1. ANDY LIONS/GETTY IMAGES

Heat rally to beat Pacers, tie series en route to Miami

One win each. LeBron leads Miami in decisive fourth-quarter run

LeBron James scored six straight points to spark a decisive 12-2 run, and the Miami Heat beat the Indiana Pacers 87-83 on Tuesday night to leave the Eastern Conference finals tied at a game apiece.

James had 12 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter. Dwyane Wade had 23 points, 13 in the first half when the Heat desperately needed them to stay close, and 10 more in the fourth quarter when they had to rally.

Game 3 is Saturday in Miami.

Lance Stephenson tied his playoff career high with 25 points for the Pacers. Paul George scored 14.

The Heat trailed 73-69 with 7:19 left. But James hit a three-pointer, and then scored the first six points in the rally and the Heat defence gave up only eight points over the final five minutes.

Miami has won 11 straight games following a playoff loss and still has not trailed 2-0 in a series since the first round of the 2012 playoffs.

At times, the rough-and-tumble night took on the aura of a football game, especially late.

George and Wade banged knees while chasing a loose ball, then returned following the ensuing timeout. James crashed hard awkwardly to the floor when West was called for a flagrant one foul in the fourth quarter — a call later changed to a common foul following a replay review.

"That's what's it's about," James said. "It's not going to be pretty. Not in the Eastern Conference. It's never pretty basketball in the Eastern Conference. It's about who can sustain runs. You know, who can get defensive stops? Who can not turn the ball over and who can get great shots? I think we did that in the fourth."

Defence clearly was the theme of Game 2.

Two days after allowing the Pacers to score 107 points, their most in this year's postseason, Miami rallied in the first half by holding Indiana to just nine points over one 10-minute stretch. And they flipped the game late with a suffocating defence, too.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Multitasking Villeneuve returns to the grid

Canadian driver Jacques Villeneuve has dabbled in a number of racing series over the last few years, tried his hand at broadcasting and hopes to eventually finish recording his next music album. His immediate focus is preparing for a return to the Indy 500 this weekend. It has made Villeneuve's busy season even more hectic, but it's a change of pace that he welcomes. DARON CUMMINGS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scan the image with your Metro News app to view a gallery of Jacques Villeneuve's cross-discipline racing career.

MLB

Jays deepen Boston's blues

Edwin Encarnacion hit a pair of two-run homers and the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Red Sox 7-4 on Tuesday night, handing Boston its fifth straight loss.

Melky Cabrera and Erik Kratz also homered for the Blue Jays, who won their second straight and sixth in eight games.

J.A. Happ (3-1) struck out six in the first three innings and picked up his third win in four starts since joining the rotation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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2014 Dodge Dart

- **Type.** Four-door, front-wheel drive compact sedan
- **Engines (hp).** 2.0-litre inline four-cylinder (160), 1.4-litre inline turbo-charged four-cylinder (160), 2.4-litre inline four-cylinder (184)
- **Base price (incl. destination).** $17,690

Market position

The all-new Dodge Dart debuted for model year 2013 desperately looking to make some headway for Chrysler in Canada's largest and most competitive segment: compact car. Dart makes its case with a slightly bigger body and interior than the competition, stylish looks, and very modern infotainment accoutrements.

Points

- All-new vehicle in 2013, with a North American specific design, developed from a Fiat architecture first utilized on Alfa Romeo Giulietta.
- Five models for 2014: SE, SXT, Aero, Limited, GT.
- Exclusive to Aero model is 1.4 turbo and dual-clutch automatic transmission (optional), which offers a fuel economy rating of 7.2 L/100 km city and 4.9 L/100 km highway (39/58 mpg).

The extra blackness of Rally Group's wheels really pops.

Safety

Constructed of 68 per cent high-strength steel; 10 standard air bags; standard four-wheel disc brakes, traction control and stability control; available rear backup camera, blind spot monitoring, rear cross path detection, ParkSense Rear Park Assist; LATCH anchors that allow child seat to be placed in three rear-seat seat positions.

One competent compact

Review. Love it or not, the 2014 Dodge Dart is a comely and well-equipped beast

MIKE GOETZ
drive@metronews.ca

PHOTOS: MIKE GOETZ

Depending on how you like your compact car configured, you'll either love or ignore the 2014 Dodge Dart.

If you like base models, with their keen pricing and the extra fuel efficiency provided by their smallish engines, you might want to look elsewhere.

The Dodge SE base model's 2.0-litre engine is neither fuel efficient nor snappy.

If you want to spend a bit more, and can, the Aero model is very fuel-efficient and snappy. Its high-tech 1.4-litre turbo engine, with 160 horsepower and 184 lb-ft of torque, is entertaining, especially when mated to the six-speed manual. Its only other transmission option is a fancy-pants dual-clutch version that promises quick and fun shifts in either self-shifting or automatic mode. But that transmission's "herky-jerky" manners at low speeds around town has not won it many fans.

So for model year 2015, Chrysler decided a couple of adjustments were in order for Dart.

The engine and transmission combination that did get some love from customers was the conventional six-speed automatic transmission and the 2.4-litre "Tigershark" Multi-Air engine with 184 horsepower and 171 lb-ft of torque. In 2013 the Tigershark was only available on the top-shelf GT model. For 2014, the engine has been made standard on the mid-level SXT and Limited models, as well as GT.

Hallelujah.

Our test victim was one of these newly endowed Darts — an SXT, outfitted with the six-speed automatic.

Energuide rates this vehicle at 9.2 L/100 km City, and 6.3 Highway.

It's a comely and well-equipped beast.

The extra blackness of the Rally Group's aluminum wheels and front grille really "pops" amid the overall whiteness of this particular SXT. I always thought the Dart was a handsome vehicle; this black-and-white version is even more so.

On the road, the Dart feels really stable and confident and comfortable — a result of lots of European-based Fiat and Alfa engineering in its chassis DNA. While the engine and transmission combo are super smooth and powerful, I wouldn't call it charismatic. But that large, unstressed engine really suits the Dart.

Compare

1 Honda Civic Sedan
Base price: $17,218
Canada's best-selling car never seems to disappoint. Smooth and refined.

2 Hyundai Elantra
Base price: $17,594
Brought new sense of style to the compact segment. Roomy, with decent ride.

3 Mazda3
Base price: $17,690
Newest and most technically endowed of the compact competitors.

PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED

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Maybe it's all the lyrical love artists lavish on the Maybach brand that convinced the folks at Daimler to revive the name for a version of their extra-long wheelbase S-class, after a two-year hiatus prompted by a decade of sputtering sales. The new 2015 Mercedes-Benz Maybach personal limousine is set to go on sale this fall. Here are five of the brand's biggest name-drops to gain a clearer understanding of the Maybach mystique.

BY MIKE DOJC
mike.dojc@metronews.ca

5 Maybach musical moments

Jay Z: Heaven

Lyric: "Y'all religion creates division like my Maybach partition/And God is my chauffeur, boy they love Hova."

Translation: In this nugget from the second single off Magna Carta Holy Grail Jayhova comes down from his mountain and attempts to contrast the strife between sectarian factions with upstairs/downstairs-style wealth inequality. But despite the heavy preaching and biblical rhyme-thumping, the car comes off golden. The main takeaway for listeners is that the place to be is the backseat of a 'Bach with a chauffeur behind the wheel.

Lorde: Royals

Lyric: "But everybody's like Cristal, Maybach, diamonds on your timepiece/jet planes, islands, tigers on a gold leash."

Translation: Simultaneously enticed and repulsed by the ostentatious trappings of the rich and spendy, the arty electro-pop princess prone to dishing on dichotomies ultimately decides that the perks and trinkets accumulated by flush hip-hop stars are outlandish and frivolous. Still, the Kiwi doesn't disparage high-dollar automotive fantasies, as evidenced by her "we're driving Cadillacs in our dreams" refrain.

Rick Ross: Maybach Music

Rozay is the founder of the Maybach Music Group, the Miami-based label that also includes Wale and Meek Mill in their lineup. He's also the living personification of the boss car, especially when Ross is primped up in a sharp suit, silk shirt, and vintage Carreras, looking large and in charge.

Maybach Music, the first in a four-song series, needs no translation. It begins with Aussie supermodel Jessica Gomes who Kanye West name-drops on Christian Dior Denim Flow saying "I like this Maybach music," before smooth instrumentals kick in and Rick Ross motors, "57 Yes, Yes!" a nod to the Maybach model first rolled out in the early '00s during the brand's reintroduction.

Childish Gambino: Backpackers

Lyric: "Summer in November I gave everyone a Maybach"

Translation: Actor Donald Glover's (Troy on Community) rhyme-savvy alter ego has spun a layered double entendre here. It could be construed that he's pulling an Oprah and gifting all his fans a brand new car, but there's more to it. This track comes off his debut LP Camp, which was a winter release, but the songs on the album are all about the lazy days of summer. So, what he's simultaneously doing is giving listeners their "May" back.

Drake ft Jay Z: Pound Cake/ Paris Morton Music 2

Lyric: "I had Benzes 'fore you had braces. The all-black Maybach but I'm not a racist. Inside's whiter than Katy Perry's face is."

Translation: Jay Z is spitting on Drizzy's track and he starts off bragging how much longer he's been in the game than the Canadian rapper before chiming in on the dope colour scheme of the luxe ride he's graduated to. The Katy Perry dig is a reference to the flack the pop star got after dressing up as a Geisha with traditional whiteface makeup for an AMA performance.

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Has Volvo solved distracted driving?

In development.
The car company is researching sensors that can tell when the driver is sleepy or not paying attention

JIL MCINTOSH
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One of the major factors in car crashes is driver inattention. It can be deadly to ignore what's happening outside the windshield, whether because of fatigue, daydreaming, or looking at the stereo or a phone.

Several automakers are working on solutions to the problem, including Volvo, which is researching sensors that watch the driver. By monitoring such things as where the driver is looking, head position and angle, and how open the eyes are, the system can recognize inattention and take steps to ensure safety.

Volvo is considering sensors that watch the driver, monitoring things like where the driver is looking. VOLVO

Quoted

"If you know that a driver is distracted, you can activate features such as a forward collision warning."

Per Landfors, project leader for drive support functions at Volvo Cars in Sweden

"If you know that a driver is distracted, you can activate features such as a forward collision warning," says Per Landfors, project leader for drive support functions at Volvo Cars in Sweden. "This is still in the experimental stage. The sensors aren't much different (from existing ones), but what's new is how they're connected to the car, and how the car adapts to you."

The technology uses a sensor that's mounted on the dash in front of the driver. It uses infrared light, emitted by small LEDs, to illuminate the driver to be visible to the sensor. People can't see infrared, so the driver doesn't notice it.

The sensor works like a camera and takes pictures, but doesn't store them. Instead, it analyzes the information in the picture, discards it, and then repeats the process, several times a second. "The car doesn't save any pictures, nor does it have a driver surveillance function," Landfors says.

If the sensor realizes that a driver isn't paying attention, it can activate some of the car's safety functions, depending on what it detects. For a sleepy driver, something like a quick brake pulse could wake him up. If the driver is distracted, systems that warn about imminent collisions, or that can stop the car completely if it's about to hit something, can be adjusted to intervene much sooner than they normally would. "If you're totally aware of what's going on, these can intervene a little bit later," Landfors says. "You only get the warning when you need it."

The system also has the potential to enhance driving for an alert operator. For example, if the system detects that the driver is looking at something on the road, it could aim the headlights toward it for better visibility.

Although the current system under development doesn't save or upload photos, Landfors says that at some time in the future, it is possible that the sensor could take a picture of the driver following a crash and forward it to emergency personnel, who would know in advance what type of trauma care will be necessary.

Coming soon?

Volvo expects that the recognition system will be available in cars by 2020, but possibly sooner than that.

- **Current Volvo cars can detect a drowsy driver, but this system can differentiate between drowsiness and inattention.**
- **Such systems may be a key to self-driving cars, which will need to know if a driver is paying attention and can take over the task.**

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Don't attempt a road trip without these four long drive must-haves

Comfort and confidence. A car reviewer touts the fave features he's found driving 800 km on the highway every week

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
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Weekly, your writer spends 10 hours on the highway in his assigned test car covering some 800 kilometres, on top of his usual week of in-town driving. Over the current span of my career as a car reviewer, that's added up to over a million kilometres driven, and no less than seven months behind the wheel.

Amidst all of this driving, I've come to form a list of a few favourite long-distance features that help pass the endless hours more easily — thanks to enhanced connectivity, confidence and comfort on the go. Here's a closer look.

Feature: Ford Sync / Kia UVO / NissanConnect, etc.

Why: Because this breed of all-in-one infotainment system makes it easy and intuitive to access important stuff like your cellphone contacts, navigation system, traffic conditions, weather and more on the go. Once you learn the system's voice interface, you can manipulate virtually any function related to entertainment, climate control, navigation or information with a button-press and spoken command. If you like staying connected, informed and on course on the move, systems like Sync, NissanConnect and UVO make it simple and stress-free.

An all-in-one infotainment system like Ford Sync makes it easy to access your navigation system, cellphone contacts, and more on the go. CONTRIBUTED

Feature: Xenon headlights

Why: Because xenon lights offer powerful, saturating illumination that closely mimics the colour of sunlight — meaning your eyes need to work less to sort out the road ahead after dark. Where a low-performance lighting system may require straining and squinting to see details up the road, xenon lights make spotting things like wildlife, signs and potential hazards easy. Even a middle-of-the-line xenon lighting system can leave your eyes fresher and more alert after several hours of nighttime driving. The benefits are even more apparent in winter, where reduced daylight and the abundance of gleaming white snow wear at the eyes of drivers during the day.

Xenon headlights offer illumination that closely mimics the colour of sunlight. This means your eyes don't need to work as hard to see the road ahead after dark. CONTRIBUTED

Feature: OnStar

Why: Because issues sometimes present themselves on the open road. Touch the OnStar button, and you've got real-life help on the line in seconds. Integrated GPS and cellular connections mean the system works regardless of the location of your cellphone. OnStar advisers can send a tow truck, provide directions to the nearest gas station, dispatch assistance for a flat, or otherwise effectively help drivers handle any distress they may encounter. My big brother instinct loves that OnStar is fitted to my little sister's car, too.

A premium audio system, like the Mark Levinson stereo available in various Lexus models, can make the hours pass by quickly. CONTRIBUTED

Quoted

"Even a middle-of-the-line xenon lighting system can leave your eyes fresher and more alert after several hours of nighttime driving."

Car reviewer Justin Pritchard
on why xenon lighting is a long-distance driving must-have

Feature: Premium audio system

Why: Because sometimes, your ride is your own personal listening space — and blasting your favourite tunes into your cranium is a great way to make the hours go by more quickly and alertly on a long drive. Whether you like deep, punchy bass, crystal-clear highs or vibrant sound imaging, most automakers offer a premium audio system that'll do the job. Bust out that old CD case or MP3 player, and a great audio system will help you discover new aural details in your favourite songs. My personal favourite in-car stereo systems include Volkswagen's Fender stereo upgrade, the Mercedes Harman Kardon stereo, the Boston Acoustics stereo in numerous Chrysler products, and the mighty Mark Levinson stereo available in various Lexus models.

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SL AWD Premium model shown with Accessory Roof Rail Crossbars▲

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Shift: Need for cleaner energy is motivating decision-makers from Bhutan to the engineers at Rolls-Royce

Rolls-Royce reconsiders electric power

If you've wondered if this "electric thing" is ever going to really take off, consider that Rolls-Royce is seriously considering a plug-in electric version of its flagship Phantom, if not perhaps for all the right reasons.

The company is considering an electric model largely because of legislation considerations, says alternative vehicle news website Green Car Reports.

Tightening emission regulations will make it ever more difficult to sell the kind of large, gasoline-powered vehicles Rolls-Royce specializes in.

Those regulations prompted the company to explore electric power with the imperious 102EX concept in 2011, but "both the recharging times and the range were not acceptable" to R-R buyers. With those issues addressed, a more positive response is expected this time around.

Range and charge times previously shelved any notion of an electric Rolls-Royce, but the company is taking another serious look at it. ALL IMAGES WHEELBASE MEDIA

The frugal Focus

The 2015 Ford Focus will for the first time offer the company's 1.0-litre three-cylinder turbocharged "EcoBoost" engine with a six-speed transmission, surpassing the fuel economy of the previous model.

The smallest in Ford's growing arsenal of EcoBoost engines increases customer choice, says Joe Hinrichs, Ford's executive vice-president of the Americas. It joins the subcompact Fiesta as the second Ford to offer the efficient little powerplant in North America.

EcoBoost technology combines smaller displacement engines with turbocharging, direct fuel injection, variable valve timing and proprietary Ford software to improve both performance and fuel economy, and can deliver way better fuel economy than larger displacement gasoline engines provided they're driven in a thrifty manner. Demand for the engine in Europe, where it's offered in five models, is robust.

The tiny Fiesta was the first car to receive the company's 1.0-litre three-cylinder engine. Now the larger Focus, pictured, will make it available.

Shift points

The world in Shift this week.

- **Americans took 10.7-billion trips on mass transit in 2013, reports the American Public Transportation Association.** That's the highest annual public transit ridership number in 57 years.
- **Ferrari's first hybrid supercar, LaFerrari (963 hp)** has taken the prize in the best sports car category of the European Best Cars 2014 awards in Madrid, Spain.
- **The small Asian nation of Bhutan has joined with Nissan** to immediately replace all Bhutanese government vehicles and taxi cabs in the capital city of Thimphu with Nissan Leaf electric cars

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
There are many things you have wanted to say but held back because you didn't want to upset people. With the Sun changing signs, you have no choice but to speak up. If you don't, it will be you who suffers.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
For the past few weeks, all eyes have been on you and there were times when you wanted to hide. Now you can, for a bit. Sooner or later though, you'll be back in the spotlight.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Everything is right with the world. Or, if it isn't, it soon will be. The Sun moves into your sign today and a new solar year begins. What are your dreams? Now is the time to get serious.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Now that the Sun is moving into the most receptive area of your chart you will find it easier to deal with your sensitive side. For one thing you won't have to pretend that you never need a shoulder to cry on.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Get out and meet people who share your way of looking at things. On an individual level there is only so much you can do, but acting with others all things become possible.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You've been waiting in the shadows. And now is the hour to step out into the world and claim centre stage. The Sun's move into the career area of your chart will encourage you to be more ambitious.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
There will be an obvious change in your mood over the next two or three days. Where before you were high strung and often uptight now you will be relaxed and easygoing.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You seem to have got it into your head that you are entitled to something the world does not seem to want to give you. What happens today will make you realize that you get only what you fight for.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Find ways to get along with people who rub you the wrong way. Like it or not you are going to have to work closely with various individuals over the next few weeks, so forget about your differences.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
As the Sun moves into the work and wellbeing area of your chart today, slow things down — even if it means cutting back on your goals. Getting things done quickly is not as important as getting them done right.

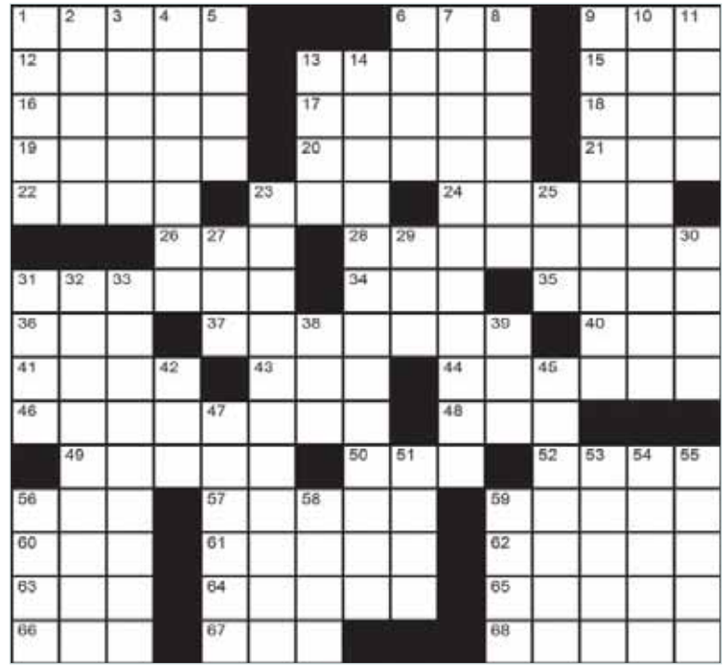
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
All worries of recent weeks will be swept away over the next 24 hours. No matter how difficult things have been for you, you will find new ways to make your dreams come true.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You may not be in the mood to put yourself out for others but someone is in need of your assistance and you'll hate yourself in the long-term if you ignore them. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



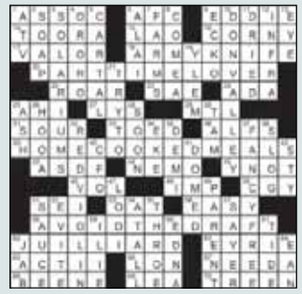
Across

1. Word coined by Tyra Banks for a type of photoshoot expression
6. Wedding doc.
9. ___ TVs
12. __ opposites
13. "Saying it __ __ thing, doing..."
15. Mr. Wallach
16. Cartoon style
17. Victoria, BC-born comedian Mr. Jones
18. Sight: French
19. Ticket remnants
20. Poet T.S.
21. Computer co.
22. Mini message
23. Mauna __ (Hawaiian volcano)
24. David Copperfield's Mr. Heep
26. Scot's refusal
28. James Cameron's gig
31. Stunning
34. Medical pros
35. Actress Elisabeth
36. Skater Midori
37. Designer Isaac
40. Communication syst.
41. 'Sultan' suffixes
43. "__ '_' comes fifth?" (Alphabet-learner's query)
44. Scotland's __ Islands
46. North Vancouver Island village
48. 'Ranch' suffix
49. Ancient Roman dictator
50. "Norma Rae" (1979) actress ...her initials-sharers
52. Mr. Werner
56. Bitty space beings
57. Glass-ceiling lobbies
59. Edgar Poe link
60. "Where __ _ begin?"
61. Subatomic particles
62. Explosive stuff
63. Wrath
64. "All systems __ __!"
65. Donnie Wahlberg's gr.
66. "Shameful!"
67. French possessive
68. 'Mississauga' has four

Down

1. Muscle __
2. Del __ (Canned fruit brand)
3. Trojan War's site
4. Hockey game machine
5. '70s Spanish hit: "__ Tu"
6. Ms. Loughlin
7. "...footprints wherever you choose..." goes this Sarah McLachlan song: 3 wds.
8. Middle
9. Canada's Wonderland roller coaster in Vaughan, ON; or, any huge thing
10. Canadian spices, baking products, etc. brand since 1883: 2 wds.
11. Carpe __!
13. 'Thought'-meaning prefix
14. Product for Canadian food brand Renee's: 2 wds.
23. Manitoba __ (Stop on Prince Charles and Camilla's visit to Winnipeg)
25. 'Acrobat' suffix
27. "Gimme __ '_'!" (Start of a cheer for Manitoba)
29. Mr. Gershwin
30. Trust
31. Filmdom's Cameron
32. Witnesses
33. Starring Joely Fisher, 2003 to '05 series on Canadian actor Chris Potter's resume, "__ __: Wild Card"
38. Madhouse
39. Not standard, briefly
42. Mr. Mineo
45. Anton __ Canadian Mustard, since 1948
47. Doubled-lettered-beginning animals
51. Burkina __ (West Africa nation)
53. Choir voices
54. Montreal 'menu'
55. Door accessories
56. Change
58. Some deer
59. Ms. Hathaway

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

		6			3			9
4				2				
		1				5	7	
2			7	8				5
9			2		6			1
6				9	4			2
	3	8				1		
				7				6
7			9			4		

Yesterday's Sudoku

9	2	5	3	8	1	6	7	4
3	8	6	4	2	7	9	5	1
7	1	4	5	6	9	8	3	2
8	7	9	2	1	5	3	4	6
5	4	1	6	9	3	2	8	7
2	6	3	7	4	8	1	9	5
4	9	8	1	5	6	7	2	3
1	3	2	9	7	4	5	6	8
6	5	7	8	3	2	4	1	9

Weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAX: 22° MIN: 7°	MAX: 23° MIN: 10°	MAX: 23° MIN: 10°

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Deerfoot Meadows
Shepard Centre
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